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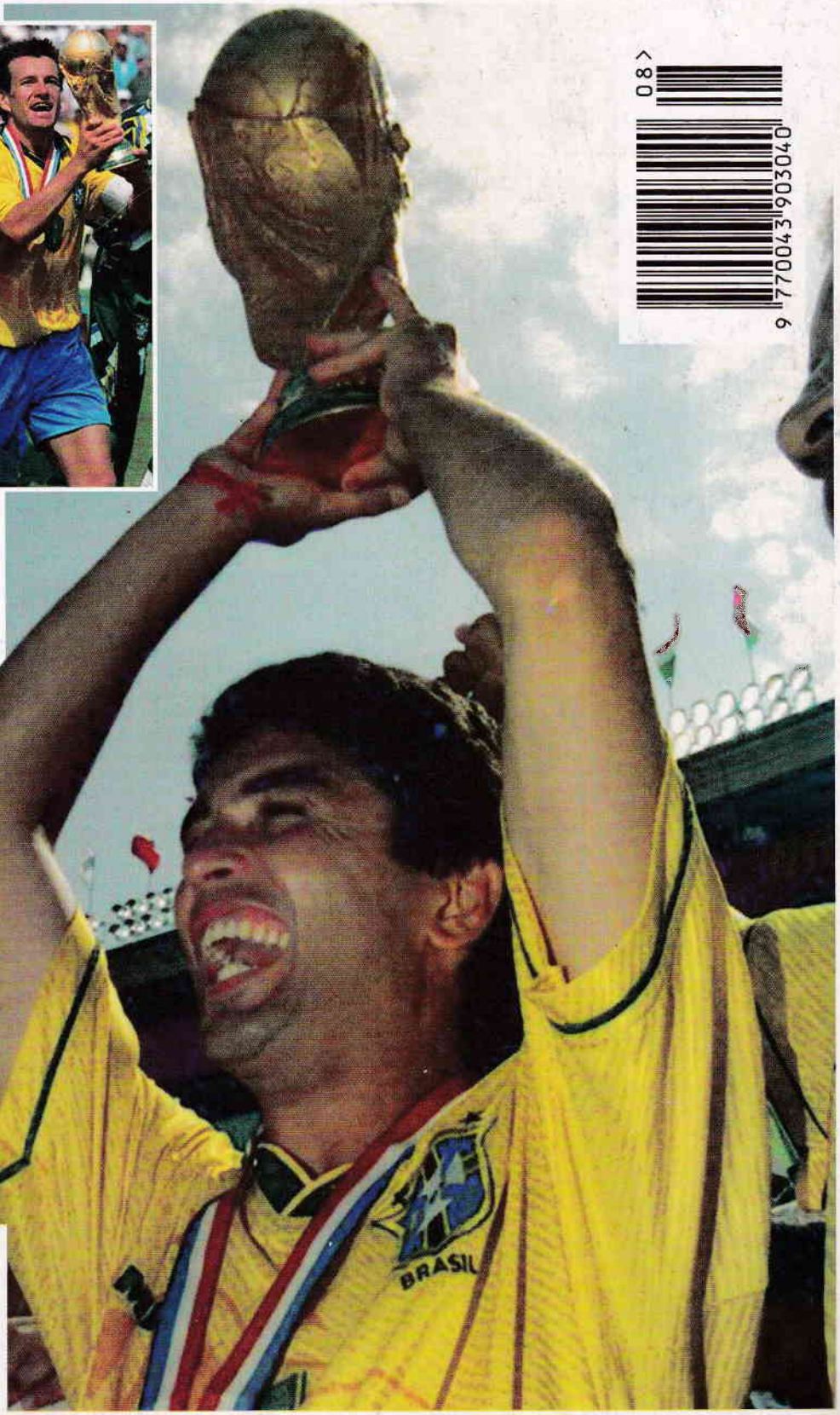


*WorldCup*USA94™

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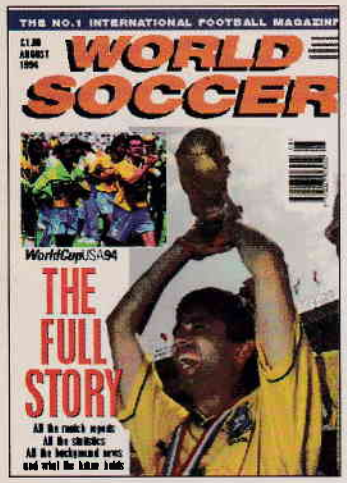


**AUGUST 1994**
**VOL.34 NO.11**

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**WORLD SOCCER** King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS

**Editor**
KEIR RADNEDGE

**Group Editor**
PAUL HAWKSBEE

**Group Art Editor**
STAN MCDONALD

**Senior Designer**
DARREN KIRK

**Picture Editor**
DUNCAN BOND

**Editorial**
TEL: 071 2615737
FAX: 071 2617474

**Advertising Manager**
JULIAN CLARKE

**Publishing Director**
ANDY McDUFF

**Publisher**
DAVID J. SMITH

**Editorial Consultant**
PETER STEWART

**Advertising**
TEL: 071 2615702

**Subscription Inquiries**
TEL: 0444 445555

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# ONE MATCH TOO

## World Cup Final

FROM KEIR RADNEDGE, *WORLD SOCCER* EDITOR, IN PASADENA

# BRAZIL MAKE HISTORY BUT USA '94 PAYS THE PENALTY

**AS I write, Brazil's World Cup-winners are dancing around the pitch in the burning sunlight of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Historic winners of a fourth World Cup . . . secured by a penalty shoot-out. The ultimate nightmare to end America's dream finals.**

Such a unique defeat was cruel on Italy and on their penalty-taker failures, Franco Baresi, Daniele Massaro and Roberto Baggio.

On the other hand, Brazil were the best team at USA '94, and Italy, after their opening debacle against the Irish Republic, were lucky to reach the second round, let alone the Final.

Thus, a horrible finish to yet another disappointing Final. The conclusion cannot be ignored even at a time when the World Cup keeps on growing and growing: in a 24-team event, seven matches is one match too far.

Italy had run out of legs; even Brazil, while not tested physically in previous matches compared with Italy, had lost their attacking zip.

The organisers of France '98 — our next appointment with the World Cup — would do the game an enormous service if they can restructure the early stages of their bloated, 32-team affair, so that the teams in the Final are playing their sixth match, rather than their seventh.

Even in this age of hyperactively physical football, seven games within 28 days is one game too many. It was sadly ironic that the 1994 Final should finish as it did.

Many of soccer's detractors in the US have pointed in scorn at the number of goalless draws — although there were only three in the 52 games here — saying that the game had nothing to offer American sports fans, who like plenty of scoring action. Indeed, those same critics had damned with faint praise the penalty shoot-out as being the one element of the game a US audience could understand and enjoy.

We all know better about the game, don't we? But it was sad that, right at the end of a hugely entertaining month, this confused spectre arose again to haunt the game and those who have worked so hard on its behalf in the US.

In these columns, on previous occasions, we have done battle on the subject of penalty shoot-outs. Our preferred method is playing to the first goal, or "sudden death" which, says FIFA general secretary, Sepp Blatter, we are likely to see (if required) in France in 1998.

A pity it was considered too experimental to introduce here at USA '94.

"Sudden death" is far from perfect but at least it does involve settling the outcome in a match situation.

Certainly these four weeks, whether experienced as specialists or spectators, have been remarkable. But beware judging the 1994 World Cup through Rose Bowl-coloured spectacles.

The organisation you may already have seen described in extremes: either gushing praise or damning criticism. The gushing praise has come from those lacking the knowledge from which to draw a critical perspective; the damning criticism from those who forget that their grumpy experience within the subterranean confines of the media jungle is no basis on which to judge the overall organisational standard.

USA '94 pulled around 20,000 more fans, on average, per game than the previous most successfully attended World Cup — Brazil in 1950.

That is success. Another impressive point: most World Cup attendance figures are computed from ticket sales, NOT from the actual numbers in the stadia (Sweden v Yugoslavia in 1974 was officially watched by 40,000: I was in Dusseldorf that day and if there were more than 5,000 in the stadium I would be astonished).

But USA '94, from my observations, was a

World Cup happily lacking the population gaps engendered at previous tournaments by unbalanced block sale of ticket packages. Not only a statistical success but a visible success.

The matches went ahead on time, with all the players and officials in place. Now, the identity of those officials left much to be desired (for example, referee Al Sharif for Mexico v Bulgaria; for example, both flag-trembling linesmen in the Final). But in due course we shall lay that at the door of FIFA, not the American organisers.

Then, however, we come to the contentious issue of fixture scheduling which, when all is said and done, should be the very core of the organising effort. And this was where USA '94 let the game down.

I appreciate that the organisers wanted to make full use of the July 4 holiday weekend. But it was an insult to the countries involved that only ONE clear day split the end of the first round and the start of the second.

The third-placed teams were right to be upset (to say it was their own fault for not finishing first or second in their groups would be technically correct but trite).

The end of the first round is the crucial time when qualified teams all need an equal breather, to regroup, sort out injuries and think out the different logistical, tactical and technical demands of the knock-out stage. It was then ludicrous to find THREE days clear between the second round and the quarter-finals.

Also, playing the semi-finals on the same day on opposite coasts was always unfair and we have said

# MANY

so in these columns, so this is not a question of being wise after the event. Fine for the teams in Pasadena; rotten for those flying from New York.

Both matches were played on the Wednesday to avoid a clash with the basketball All-Star game on the Tuesday. But US v Colombia did not suffer through simultaneous scheduling with the NBA Finals, did it?

Was it mere coincidence that the two teams who had to fly from New York looked particularly leg-weary? Bulgaria, in the Third Place Play-off against Sweden, looked as if they had left their legs in New Jersey. Italy, by the penalty shoot-out, could hardly find players with stamina enough to walk to the penalty spot and back.

We understand Alan Rothenberg's hype for the "best World Cup ever." He had a highly-critical domestic agenda to address. The most we can say is that this, overall, was the best of the 24-team finals compared with those in Spain 1982, Mexico 1986 and Italy 1990.

The football, until the last few matches — and surely this is significant — was hugely entertaining, with some spine-tingling drama. I do believe, however, that USA '94 will be seen as a tournament which, while a delicious cake, lacked the icing of true class.

One player of great classical talent did appear at these finals. His name is Diego Armando Maradona and he was expelled in disgrace for failing that infamous dope test.

Ultimately, the organisation of a World Cup matters not one iota. All that matters — first, middle and last — is the quality of the football. And quality football cannot be served up by players who have gone past the physical point of no return.

That is a sad epitaph for USA '94, in which so much was achieved.

# MORE TRAGEDY THAN DRAMA

**THE abiding image of any World Cup is the very last match.**

For example, talk of Italia '90, and the images conjured up almost invariably are of that most dreary of Finals, between Germany and Argentina.

The abiding image of USA '94 will be, for many, a horror story. Of course, as with all horror stories, the day started bright and innocent. Brazil's line-up, as with all Brazil's best World Cup teams, was predictable, with Mazinho still preferred to Rai on the right of midfield.

The Italian line-up was awaited with impatience because of coach Arrigo Sacchi's concerns over Roberto Baggio's hamstring injury and Costacurta's suspension.

In the event — and, presumably, some magic therapy — Baggio was fit to play while Sacchi took another of his massive gambles by recalling veteran skipper Baresi to the centre of defence, three weeks after a cartilage operation.

Baresi was magnificent, with a performance to enter World Cup legend. Full marks to him also for coming out soon afterwards to face the media and talk about the match, the penalties and the defeat. Great player, great captain.

The first half was the mixture much as before as far as Brazil v Italy matches are concerned. Brazil sought to use their technical brilliance to out-manoeuvre Italy's defensive discipline, while the Italians sat back and waited to judge the moment on which to unleash their rapid counter-attacks.

Naturally, the Brazilians did create opportunities. Romario wasted a 12th-minute heading chance, Mazinho fell over his own feet when Pagliuca failed to hold a Branco free-kick, and the goal-keeper dropped low to save well both from Romario and then another Branco free-kick.

Italy, by contrast, created only one first-half opening: when Baresi played one of the most astute through passes of the finals, only for Taffarel to save Massaro's shot.

Massaro and Baresi were the two survivors of Italy's 1982 winning squad in Spain. They had contrasting fortunes in Pasadena. Baresi never put a foot wrong; Massaro had trouble putting a foot right. To be fair to him, selfless support is not one of the great strengths Roberto Baggio provides, still less when nursing a hamstring injury.

**BRAZIL 0** — JULY 17 = PASADENA — **ITALY 0**

*BRAZIL WON 3-2 ON PENS AFTER EXTRA TIME*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Taffarel | 1 | Pagliuca |
| Jorginho | 2 | Mussi |
| Aldair | 3 | Maldini |
| Marcio Santos | 4 | Baresi |
| Branco | 5 | Benarrivo |
| Mazinho | 6 | Berti |
| Dunga | 7 | Albertini |
| Mauro Silva | 8 | D Baggio |
| Zinho | 9 | Donadoni |
| Romario | 10 | R Baggio |
| Bebeto | 11 | Massaro |
| Carlos Pareira | *Coach* | Arrigo Sacchi |

**Att:** 94,194. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun). **Linesmen:** Zarate (Par), Fanaei (Iran). ***Substitutions:*** Cafu for Jorginho (20mins), Viola for Mazinho (106mins), Apolloni for Mussi (34mins), Evani for D Baggio (94mins).
***Booked:*** Mazinho & Cafu (Brazil), Apolloni & Albertini (Italy).

**PENALTY SHOOT-OUT**
***(Italy first)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Marcio Santos *saved* **0-0** | Baresi *over* **0-0** |
| Romario **1-1** | Albertini **1-0** |
| Branco **2-2** | Evani **2-1** |
| Dunga **2-3** | Massaro *saved* **2-2** |
| | R Baggio *over* **2-3** |

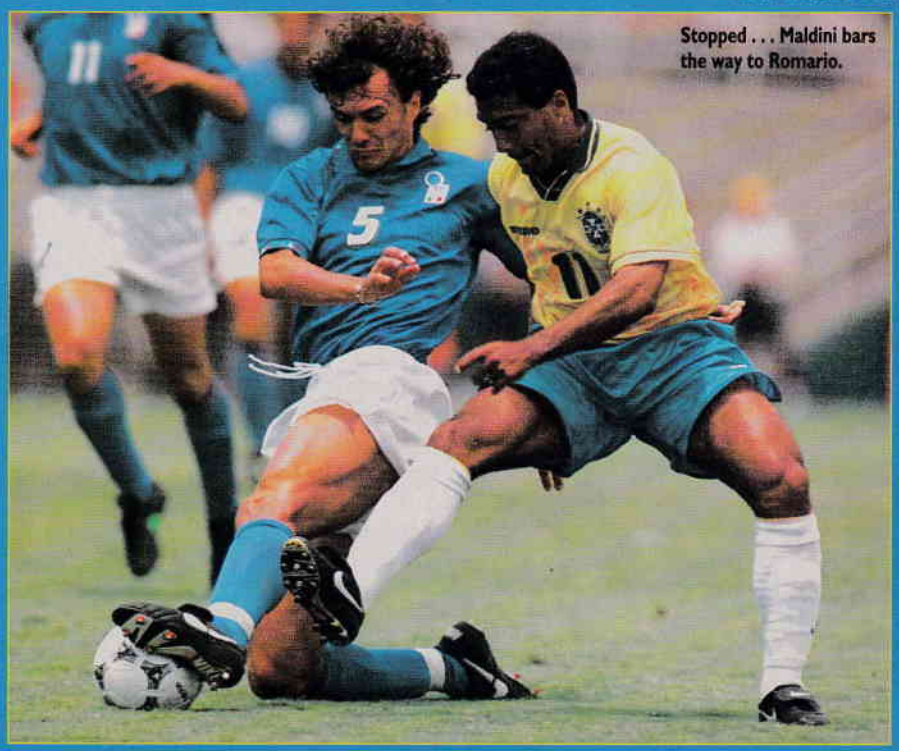
**Golden Ball *(World Cup best player):*** Romario (Brazil).
**Golden Boot *(for top scorer):*** Salenko (Russia) & Stoichkov (Bulgaria), 6.

The second half followed much the same pattern. Romario, about to be voted the Player of the Tournament, was not as fortunate with his finishing, and Pagliuca hacked clear when Romario burst through after exchanging passes with Bebeto.

That was the prelude to a remarkable incident. Mauro Silva, a tireless driving force in midfield, drove for goal, then watched as helpless as anyone else in the stadium as Pagliuca spilled the ball, saw it bobble against the post and rebound into his hands.

In this half Italy manufactured two dangerous breaks. The first was when Aldair just cut off Massaro, dashing

***CONTINUED OVER***



**Stopped . . . Maldini bars the way to Romario.**

for goal, the second when Donadoni dug out a short cross from the right and Baggio pounced on the ball, twisted left but scooped the ball over the bar.

Later, from a similar position at the penalty spot, he again scooped the ball too high. The second occasion, of course, proved decisive. The first merely meant that the match went into extra time: the first time a World Cup Final to be goalless at 90 minutes.

The game's tactical lay-out had been like that of the teams: logical and open with Brazil, complex with Italy.

Brazil were in their usual 4-4-2, switching to five at the back when they were under pressure and the hard-working Mauro Silva dropped in as an extra centre back. Italy began with Mussi and Benarrivo wide as full-backs, Baresi as sweeper, and Maldini marking Bebeto in the middle.

When Mussi was injured, Apolloni was brought into the centre of defence with Maldini going to left-back and Benarrivo to right-back. Whether by luck or judgment, the switches followed soon after Brazil had been forced to replace the injured Jorginho with Cafu.

Now Cafu happens to be one of the fastest footballers in Latin America, and his forays up the right would have created plenty more problems for Italy had not the superb Maldini been switched to that flank.

The duel between Cafu and Maldini was one of the more fascinating cameos of the Final and, in the third minute of extra time, Cafu threatened to create the winner. His hard-hit cross flew across the edge of the six-yard box, Pagliuca dived too late but Bebeto, at the far post, found himself on the wrong foot. His off-balance prod only pushed the ball back across goal, where Pagliuca grabbed it.

A minute later Italy gambled on Evani, who had not been fit since the first game. He substituted for Dino Baggio and his arrival helped create a gap in midfield. Albertini found Roberto Baggio, and his 25-yard volley was tipped over by Taffarel.

Referee Sandor Puhl's selection, particularly in the wake of his controversial handling of the Italy v Spain match, had been a surprise. Clearly he was not chosen for his commonsense. At half-time in extra time he tried to turn the players around immediately without allowing them to freshen up from the waterbags and bottles on the sidelines. The players took the law into their own hands and went to the benches for refreshment, giving the referee no option but to back down.

Zinho's replacement by Viola nearly brought a decisive breakthrough in the last 15 minutes. His powerful running almost paralysed the Italian defence.

One such occasion was when Cafu crossed to the far post, where Romario managed to put the ball wide from virtually on the goal-line.

Puhl's final whistle was the one nobody wanted to hear. Particularly Italy. Brazil had, famously, lost a penalty shoot-out to France in the 1986 quarter-finals but the Italians had the poorer shoot-out record. They lost the semi-final to Argentina that way four years ago and lost the third place play-off as European Championship hosts in 1980.

Pagliuca and Taffarel walked together towards the East end goal, agreed that the winner would be the one selected by destiny, and wished each other luck.

Taffarel benefited immediately when Baresi shot over. His great comeback effort did not deserve that: torture by penalty was an insult to a great player and a condemnation of FIFA, who — after 12 years of controversy — have failed to come up with anything better.

Pagliuca kept Italy level when he saved from Marcio Santos and Italy went briefly ahead through Albertini, youngest player on the field at 22. Romario squared for Brazil. Evani netted for Italy. Branco scored for Brazil. And then it fell apart for Italy as Taffarel saved from Massaro and Dunga hit what proved to be the vital kick. Dunga, as skipper, was an appropriate man to do so, and was settling an old score with the Rose Bowl. Ten years earlier he had been on the losing side in the Olympic Games Final against France.

Baggio needed to score with Italy's last kick of the five to keep his country in it. Of course, he failed.

Brazil had won the World Cup. Not a patch on the 1970 side but the best team here. When talk turns to the 1994 World Cup, the immediate images will be of great footballers betrayed by the game's politicians.

USA '94 presented many, many moments and matches to enjoy. Sadly, the Final was not one of them. A terrific show on a terrific stage . . . but, ultimately, more tragedy than drama.

# FINAL WORDS

**CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA *(Brazil coach):*** "First, I want to thank the players and congratulate them on a wonderful achievement. Italy were worthy opponents but we did deserve to win.

"A penalty shoot-out is not the best way of settling a championship but you could not expect these players to come back for yet another match, another 90 minutes and perhaps extra time yet again, to resolve the issue.

"I'm happy that Brazil are again No. 1 in the world. Our mission has been accomplished!"

**CLAUDIO TAFFAREL *(Brazil goalkeeper):*** "We knew this would be Brazil's World Cup. We began it well, we were certain it was going to end well. We were well worthy of the title because we were the best team here.

"Of course a penalty kick victory does not always mean that the best team have come out on top but we believe it did this time.

"The goalkeeper normally tries to put all the responsibility on to the the kicker. I guessed right on Massaro's kick, so it may have looked an easy save. After Baresi missed, I told him that didn't affect what a great player he was. I am great friends with Pagliuca so, when we walked together towards the goal before the shoot-out, we agreed that the winners would be the team fate decided."

**BEBETO *(Brazil):*** "Not many people believed in us but the players knew we could win and we deserved it. Brazil were the best team throughout the competition.

"Every team who played against us changed their way of playing. Italy were proof of that. They sat back and waited for us to come at them. Fortunately we were patient enough and were able to win it on penalties.

"We have dedicated this win to the memory of our great friend Ayrton Senna."

# FINAL TIMETABLE

0.....Brazil kick off.
3.....Yellow card for Mazinho after laying out Berti.
4.....Italy win the first corner.
12....Dunga arrows in a cross from the Brazilian right and Romario, unmarked, only manages to pop the header into Pagliuca's waiting arms as he turns. The first miss.
16....A superb break by Brazil. Dunga robs Albertini and finds Romario, ahead and in space. He sets Bebeto free on the left but the shot is deflected wide for a corner.
17....Italy's first chance. Baresi fires a superb pass through the heart of the defence but Massaro, clear, is foiled by Taffarel's diving advance.
20....Cafu substitutes for Jorginho.
21....Romario is given off-side by the referee in the first of several confusions between Puhl and linesman Zarate.
25....More Brazilian pressure. Branco lashes in a low free-kick which Pagliuca, diving at his right-hand post, blocks but cannot hold. Fortunately for Italy, Mazinho falls over his own feet trying to reach the rebound and the ball rolls wide.
34....Italy replace Mussi with Apolloni.
37....Pagliuca dives right to save from Romario.
41....Apolloni is shown the yellow card as he trips Romario, chasing a return pass from Bebeto.
42....Albertini is booked for not retreating readily enough at a free-kick. Branco again pierces the defensive wall but this time Pagliuca saves cleanly, low down.
*Half-time:* Brazil 0 Italy 0.
52....Bebeto forces a fine leaping save from Pagliuca with a header and is disappointed to find he has been given offside.
54....Aldair cuts off Massaro, dashing through, in the nick of time.
64....Brazil on the attack again. Romario plays a one-two with Bebeto only to find Pagliuca dashing forward to hack the ball clear off his feet.
68....Branco heads over from a Zinho corner on the right.

Saved . . . Taffarel after stopping Massaro's penalty.

75....The closest so far. Mauro Silva raps a cross-shot from 20 yards. Pagliuca drops the ball to his right and it strikes the post and rebounds into the goalkeeper's hands.
81....Italy try again. Donadoni digs out a short cross from the right and Roberto Baggio, for the first time, lights on the ball in space. He turns but, in his haste, scoops his shot over the bar.
86....Cafu is booked for tripping Maldini.
*90mins:* Brazil 0 Italy 0
93....Brazil miss another wonderful chance. Cafu crosses from the right, Pagliuca misses the ball but Bebeto, caught wrong-footed at the far post, can only prod the ball across the goal, and Pagliuca grabs it.
94....Evani on as substitute for Dino Baggio.
96....A superb break by Italy. Albertini squares to Roberto Baggio, 25 yards out, who spins and volleys for goal. Taffarel, making his best save of the match, flips the ball over.
99....Pagliuca does well to stop an angled shot from Zinho at close range.
*Half extra time:* Brazil 0 Italy 0
106..Viola on as substitute for Zinho.
109..Brazil fashion, and waste, another chance. Cafu again provides the cross and Romario, somehow, pushes the ball the wrong side of the far post from a yard out and with Pagliuca nowhere.
111..Baresi makes a great saving tackle to foil Romario after a powerful run around the Italian midfield and defence by Viola.
113..Roberto Baggio plays a lightning-quick reverse move with Massaro but manages only a weak shot at Taffarel when clear on the right.
*Full extra time:* Brazil 0 Italy 0.
*Penalty shoot-out:* Italy make the worst possible start when Baresi shoots over the bar, but Pagliuca stops Marcio Santos's initial effort for Brazil. The scoring sequence is not broken until Taffarel saves Italy's fourth penalty, by Massaro. Dunga shoots Brazil 3-2 in front and Roberto Baggio's subsequent shot, high over the bar, settles the matter without Brazil having to take their fifth penalty.

**ARRIGO SACCHI *(Italy coach)*:** "I too want to thank the players, our Federation president, my assistants and all those people who have worked with me.

"Everybody has done their best and gave everything they could. In those circumstances there is nothing more to be done but to accept whatever result that comes along.

"The players played in crescendo — they got better with every game.

"It was undoubtedly a very difficult match against a great team such as Brazil. But it was an even match and it could have gone either way.

"Unfortunately we ran out of luck when we came to the penalty shoot-out. On that subject, I would say that at the end of a championship everyone understands that you must have a champion. It can't be a tie. So we accept the rules as they are — which means penalties.

"Personally, this World Cup has been a remarkable experience which I would happily repeat.

"At the end both teams were very tired. The weather was against and many players were suffering from cramp. But we are not looking for excuses. Our players gave a very positive demonstration of what it means to be a professional footballer. Of course, we faltered on the penalty kicks but, individually and collectively, I am happy that the team did their best.

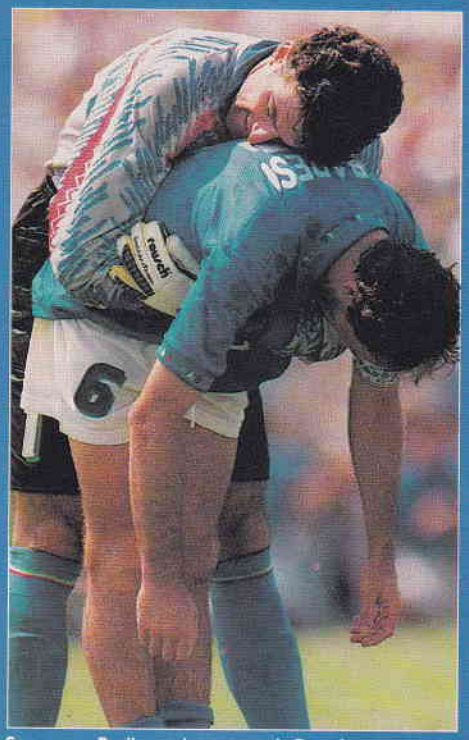
"Don't forget, players such as Baresi and Evani missed most of the finals because of injury. Yet Baresi played a wonderful game. As to why he took the first penalty — he always has taken that responsibility. Today was no time to change.

"Anyway, for me it's good to know that one day I will be able to look back and remember, and tell people, that I went within just a penalty kick of winning the World Cup."

**FRANCO BARESI *(Italy captain)*:** "It was like all Finals, on a tactical level it was extremely difficult. I thought that whoever could score first would be the winners. Both of us had chances during the game. What happened later was unforeseeable. Brazil are a great team and had a little more luck than we did.

"Penalty kicks are a lottery. You never know what might happen. We gave everything we could and our conscience is clear. I didn't know until the last minute that I would be playing.

"When you get as far as a Cup Final it's always horrible to lose, whether it is on penalties or in normal time."



Sorrow . . . Pagliuca tries to console Baresi.

## FINAL FIRSTS

- First World Cup Final decided on penalties: Brazil v Italy, 1994.
- First World Cup match indoors: US v Switzerland.
- First indoor goal: Georges Bregy (Switzerland v US).
- First goalkeeper sent off in finals: Gianluca Pagliuca (Italy v Norway).
- First country to use three substitutes in a match: Morocco (v Belgium), when goalkeeper Khalil Azmi was allowed on under the new rule.
- First man to score five goals in one match: Oleg Salenko (Russia v Cameroon).
- First man sent home for a gesture to fans: Stefan Effenberg (after Germany v South Korea).
- First player sent off in an Opening Match: Marco Etcheverry (Bolivia v Germany).
- First finals win for how long? United States v Colombia, 44 years; Switzerland v Romania, 40 years; Bulgaria (first win ever) v Greece, 34 years.
- Youngest player sent off in finals: Rigobert Song, 17 (Cameroon v Brazil).
- Oldest player in finals: Roger Milla, 42 (Cameroon v Brazil).
- Oldest scorer in finals: Milla (v Russia).

## FINAL STATISTICS

*Total attendance:* 3,567,415 (record).
*Average attendance:* 68,604 (record).
*Goals scored:* 141 (average 2.7 per match).
*Shots:* 1608 (611 on target, 28 against post or bar).
*Free-kicks:* 168.
*Penalties:* 15 (all scored).
*Corners:* 532.
*Offside:* 347.
*Fouls:* 1498.
*Yellow cards:* 235.
*Red cards:* 15.
*Substitutions:* 199.

# 3rd place play-off

# THIRD IS BETTER THAN SECOND

**SWEDEN manager Tommy Svensson took three steps forward and two back after his team tore apart leg-weary, time-zone-lagged Bulgaria in the Third Place Play-off.**

First-half goals from Tomas Brolin, Hakan Mild, Henrik Larsson and Kennet Andersson provided Sweden with what will appear in the record books as their best finish since 1958, when they lost in the Final to Brazil.

Svensson, however, considers this victory far more significant and an ideal stepping stone towards a European Championship challenge in England in 1996. He said: "A third-place finish in this World Cup says much more than finishing runners-up in 1958.

"The game has made enormous strides since then. We have many new countries playing the game — and some at a high level — and football has truly spead all over the world. The World Cup now is a much bigger competition in every way.

"Our future looks very good. We were one of the youngest teams here so most of these players will get better still on the way to the European Championship in England."

Parma's Tomas Brolin was singled out for special praise. Almost by accident, the Swedes appear to have found Brolin's best position — operating behind the strikers from a position wide on the right of midfield.

Svensson said: "All of a sudden Tomas has developed as a leader. He wants the ball all the time and he is always coming up with new answers to old questions."

Salute . . . Brolin marks the opening goal against Bulgaria.

JULY 16 = PASADENA

**SWEDEN 4** — **BULGARIA 0**

***Brolin 8, Mild 30, Larsson 37, K Andersson 39***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ravelli | 1 | Mikhailov |
| R Nilsson | 2 | Kiriakov |
| P Andersson | 3 | Ivanov |
| Bjorklund | 4 | Hubchev |
| Kamark | 5 | Tzvetanov |
| Brolin | 6 | Lechkov |
| Mild | 7 | Yankov |
| Schwarz | 8 | Sirakov |
| Ingesson | 9 | Balakov |
| K Andersson | 10 | Stoichkov |
| H Larsson | 11 | Kostadinov |
| Tommy Svensson | *Coach* | Dimitar Penev |

**HT:** 4-0. **Att:** 83,716. **Ref:** Bujsaim (UAE)

***Substitutions:*** Limpar for Larsson (78mins), Nikolov for Mikhailov (46mins), Kremenliev for Ivanov (41mins), Yordanov for Kostadinov (46mins).

***Booked:*** K Andersson (Sweden), Yankov (Bulgaria).

Bulgaria's biggest regret was that Hristo Stoichkov — despite eight efforts at goal — failed to score the one that would have lifted his total to seven and moved him clear of Russia's six-goal Oleg Salenko.

Coach Dimitar Penev said: "I don't think the referee was fair to Stoichkov with his refusal to award us penalties and free-kicks. He must have something against him." Grumpy as he was then, Penev and his team will no doubt reflect with delight on their World Cup achievements.

# NOT AN ORDINARY CASE, BUT LIFE BAN MAY FOLLOW

**DIEGO MARADONA *(right)* will not have to wait long to learn if he is to be banned for life after being caught in a dope test after Argentina's 2-1 first-round victory over Nigeria.**

Analysis by scientists at the University of California proved, according to FIFA's organising committee, that he had taken a "cocktail of amphetamine stimulants." FIFA will issue a definite decision on Maradona after imposing an interim ban in the US.

Confirmation of the greatest scandal in the 64 years of the World Cup emerged a few hours before Argentina were due to play Bulgaria in a match in which Maradona had expected to set a 22-match appearance record in his fourth World Cup.

Hardly surprisingly in the circumstances, Argentina lost 2-0 and, instead of qualifying as group winners, squeezed through as one of the four fortunate third-placed teams. That upset their "easy" route to the semi-finals and they were eliminated next time out, losing 3-2 to Romania in one of the finest matches of the finals.

Maradona had returned to action only in the autumn of 1992 after completing a 15-month suspension imposed when he failed a dope test while playing in Italy for Napoli. He then traced guilty on cocaine and later, back in Argentina, was put on probation after being caught in a drugs bust.

The latest, and most sensational, of his falls to disgrace was revealed on Wednesday, June 29, when FIFA's organising committee were told he had failed the test. The Argentinian Federation took up their right to check a second sample. This also proved positive and the organising committee met in disciplinary session a matter of hours after the result had been confirmed.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter: "This is not an ordinary case because of the personality involved." President Joao Havelange said: "I am very sad about what has happened. I flew here from Washington hoping it wasn't true but the facts are clear and we cannot ignore them."

The committee found the case against Maradona proved, noted that his Federation already had withdrawn him from the World Cup, formally suspended him from the finals and from all football until FIFA's disciplinary committee meet later this summer.

Controversially the organising committee did not alter the result of Argentina's match against Nigeria because, according to Blatter, "only one player was proved to have been involved." If two players had failed tests, then the result would have been amended.

Medical commission president Michel D'Hooghe said: "Tests found five inhibited substances in each urine sample. The products are ephedrine and allied substances which affect the central nervous system, increasing concentration and physical capacity. We have not found one pill which contains all five substances so we must assume the player had taken a cocktail of substances."

Ephedrine is not available over the counter in the United States. In answer to a further question, D'Hooghe said that it is sometimes used to assist weight loss but that it was not on a list of substances in use which had been submitted by the Argentinian medical staff. All federations were told of the list of prohibited substances before and finals and ephedrine was on that list.

Argentinian FA president Julio Grondona said he believed Maradona had taken the substances in his specially-prepared food. But sources close to Daniel Cerrini, Maradona's controversial "dietician" , said that the substances contained in nose drops is used to cleanse the body of performance-enhancing drugs.

Cerrini, a 26-year-old former South Americam body-building champion, is known to have administered special drugs to his pupils — one of whom previously had been banned from a body-building contest.

# FIFA KEEP SOVIETS GOING

**THE Soviet Union lives on within world football even though the Communist monolith of a nation disappeared from the international political map more than two years ago.**

**Confusion was maintained when FIFA Congress failed to agree on a formula to erase the Soviet Union from its statutes.**

**The problem lay in the terms by which the Soviet Union originally were admitted to FIFA membership back in 1946. Negotiations were then concluded with the provision of a permanent FIFA vice-presidency for the Soviets. Now, although everyone is agreed that the Soviet Union should be deleted from the organisation, nobody quite knows how.**

**Egypt failed with a proposal which would have expanded the FIFA executive committee by five "ordinary" members — one from Asia, one from Africa, one from North and Central America and two from Europe — as the price of replacing the Soviet vice-presidency.**

**Ninety of the 153 voting membership of FIFA voted in favour while 63 were against. A proposal changing the statutes demands a three-quarters majority of the votes cast, so the proposal failed.**

**Interestingly, voting split along regional lines. Africa and Asia were for the Egyptian proposal while Europe and South America and most of the Oceania contingent voted against.**

**Immediately afterwards Congress debated and then voted on the FIFA executive committee's own proposal to resolve the issue. This proposal simply offered to replace the Soviet vice-presidency with an extraordinary member for Europe. This might appear logical on the face of it, but the African and Asian contingent were so upset at the failure of their own motion that they voted this one down by way of revenge.**

**In a display of unusual rebellion, African Confederation presidenta Issa Hayatou — though a member of the executive committee — spoke against the proposal.**

**His "reward" was to be slapped down by president Joao Havelange who pointed out that the original proposal had been supported unanimously in private session originally by members of the executive.**

**The outcome of all this confusion — created in essence by the Afro-Asian campaign to increase its governing influence on the world game — is that the Soviet Union vice-presidency will remain in place for another two years until the next FIFA Congress. That makes the incumbent, Viacheslav Koloskov, the greatest political survivor of the old Communist era.**

**Congress did manage to make decisions on other issues:**

- **Fourteen new federations were formally admitted to FIFA, taking current membership up to 191, the only applicant deferred being Bosnia-Herzegovina.**
- A Tunisian proposal to award World Cup host rights to each confederation by rota was rejected.
- **Order of Merit awards were bestowed on former great players Ferenc Puskas, Obdulio Varela, Alfredo Di Stefano, Francisco Varallo, Eusebio and Just Fontaine; as well as officials Sir Arthur George (Australia), Abdel Halim (Sudan), Gene Edwards (US) and Chen Chengda (China).**
- Fair Play Awards were made to Zambia *(left)* — in recognition of their efforts to overcome the effects of the World Cup air disaster — and to former Hungarian star centre-forward Nandor Hidegkuti.
- **World Ranking awards went to Honduras (most improved team of 1992), Colombia (most improved team of 1993) and to Germany (top-ranked team 1993).**

# MURDER OF A FAVOURITE IS LATEST COLOMBIAN OUTRAGE

THE World Cup "family" was shocked by the murder of Colombian crowd favourite Andres Escobar a few days after he and his team-mates had returned home following their elimination in the first round of the finals.

But simplistic commentaries suggesting that Escobar *(right)* was a victim "simply" because of his own goal in the defeat by the United States were misplaced.

Messages of condolence and sympathy poured into Colombia after 27-year-old Escobar's murder.

He and a woman companion got into an argument with a group of men as they were leaving a restaurant in the Las Palmas suburb of Medellin, the notorious city that is both the drugs and football capital of Colombia.

Escobar was shot 12 times before the men escaped in two jeeps. Three were later arrested.

Police were sent to guard homes of other members of the World Cup squad who live in Medellin, which is over 150 miles north-east of the Colombian capital of Bogota.

Police speculated that the outrage might be linked with the death threats which persuaded Colombian officials to withdraw Gabriel Gomez from the team to face the US. Coach Francisco Maturana also was subject to death threats.

The team, among the favourites for the World Cup, did badly, particuarly against the US. Rumours later circulated that pressure from government agencies had been brought to bear, although the reason why was not clear.

Colombian football is dominated by huge betting syndicates run by the drugs cartels and large sums of money are won and lost. It is not unknown for the losers' anger to be expressed in violence against players and officials.

In 1989 the Colombian championship was abandoned after a referee was shot dead for disallowing a goal in a match which was the subject of heavy betting.

Previously a senior government official who had promised to help clean up domestic Colombian soccer was assassinated.

The close links between Colombian football and drugs barons were laid open when Rene Higuita, their World Cup goalkeeper at Italia '90, was involved in obtaining the release of a girl who had been taken hostage by one of the drugs gangs. Higuita acted as a go-between in obtaining the girl's release, for which he received a percentage fee.

He is not the only Colombian player to have been friendly with the drugs barons. After the drugs "godfather", Pablo Escobar, was killed in a police ambush, his coffin was draped with the flag of the Atletico Nacional club of Medellin. Many of the World Cup players, including Escobar — who was not related to Pablo — played for Nacional, and Maturana had previously worked there.

Maturana announced his resignation as manager of Colombia before the end of the finals. He went into hiding, but is said to be taking over as coach of Spain's Atletico Madrid.

His assistant, Hernan Dario Gomez, had been favourite to take over. But Gomez — brother of threatened midfielder Gabriel — said he did not want the job in such circumstances.

Andres Escobar won his 48th and last cap in the game against Switzerland. He was extremely popular with fans and colleagues, and a poll of journalists in 1992 included him in Colombia's Best-Ever team.

He helped Nacional to win the Libertadores Cup in 1989, and had a spell with Young Boys in Switzerland before rejoining his old club.

# HAVELANGE 1, THE REST 0

**JOAO HAVELANGE *(right)* was re-elected president of FIFA for a fifth four-year term. He was the only candidate and was re-elected unopposed amid a little bit of theatre.**

First he left the conference room while the decision was taken. Then he delayed his return for five minutes — waiting until television crews had positioned themselves to record his triumphant re-entrance.

Havelange, regarded as one of the most powerful men in international sport, also wields a lot of clout in the International Olympic Committee. He said he would concentrate on achieving three things during his final four years in office:

- Improving communications among FIFA's 191 member nations by making sure that every national federation has instant access to FIFA and to each other through telephone and fax service, which FIFA will try to provide, perhaps through a sponsor;
- Creating what he called a "documentation centre" but what is in effect a central electronic communications and media centre in a building already under construction alongside FIFA headquarters in Zurich.
- Establishing a FIFA foundation that will work through three Swiss banks to help children in impoverished and underdeveloped countries around the world.

This last promise drew the loudest applause from delegates to the Congress because FIFA often have been criticised for not putting their commercial success to better, more humanitarian use.

He said: "We have an obligation to reach out to the less developed countries and to send to the children everywhere a message that life can be better."

Havelange, a former Olympic swimmer and water polo player turned businessman and sports leader, has made his career in FIFA by courting the votes of the African, Asian and CONCACAF confederation members.

It was Havelange who expanded the World Cup from 16 to 24 teams in 1982. It was Havelange who established the under-20 and under-17 and women's and five-a-side (indoor) world championship tournaments. It was Havelange who proposed that Asia stage the 2002 World Cup and that Africa be seriously considered as a World Cup host by 2006.

And it was Havelange who saved his job earlier this year when he again expanded the World Cup field, this time from 24 to 32 for the 1998 tournament in France.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# Official USA 94 squads

## Argentina

***Goalkeepers:*** 12 Luis ISLAS, 1 Sergio GOYCOCHEA, 22 Norberto SCOPONI.
***Defenders:*** 2 Sergio VASQUEZ, 15 Jorge BORELLI, 6 Oscar RUGGERI, 3 Jose CHAMOT, 4 Roberto SENSINI, 13 Fernando CACERES, 16 Hernan DIAZ.

***Midfielders:*** 5 Fernando REDONDO *(left)*, 14 Diego SIMEONE, 21 Alejandro MANCUSO, 18 Hugo PEREZ, 8 Jose BASUALDO, 10 Diego MARADONA, 20 Leonardo RODRIGUEZ.
***Forwards:*** 9 Gabriel BATISTUTA, 7 Claudio CANIGGIA, 19 Abel BALBO, 17 Arnaldo ORTEGA, 11 Ramon MEDINA BELLO.
***Coach:*** Alfio BASILE

## Belgium

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Michel PREUD'HOMME, 12 Filip DE WILDE, 20 Dany VERLINDEN.
***Defenders:*** 4 Philippe ALBERT, 3 Vital BORKELMANS, 14 Michel DE WOLF, 15 Marc EMMERS, 13 Georges GRUN, 2 Dirk MEDVED, 22 Pascal RENIER, 5 Rudi SMIDTS.
***Midfielders:*** 16 Danny BOFFIN, 10 Enzo SCIFO, 6 Lorenzo STAELENS, 7 Franky VAN DER ELST, 21 Stephan VAN DER HEYDEN, 19 Eric VAN MEIR.
***Forwards:*** 11 Alex CZERNIATYNSKI, 9 Marc DEGRYSE, 8 Luc NILIS, 17 Josip WEBER, 18 Marc WILMOTS.
***Coach:*** Paul VAN HIMST

## Bolivia

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Carlos TRUCCO, 12 Dario ROJAS, 19 Marcelo TORRICO.
***Defenders:*** 4 Miguel RIMBA, 5 Gustavo QUINTEROS, 3 Marco SANDY, 16 Luis CRISTALDO, 2 Juan Manuel PENA, 17 Oscar SANCHEZ, 13 Modesto SORUCO.

***Midfielders:*** 8 Jose Milton MELGAR, 22 Julio Cesar BALDIVIESO, 10 Marco ETCHEVERRY, 21 Erwin SANCHEZ *(left)*, 14 Mauricio RAMOS, 7 Mario PINEDO, 15 Vladimir SORIA, 20 Ramiro CASTILLO, 6 Carlos BORJA.
***Forwards:*** 18 William RAMALLO, 11 Jaime MORENO, 9 Guillermo Alvaro PENA.
***Coach:*** Xavier AZKARGORTA (Spa)

## Brazil

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 TAFFAREL, 22 GILMAR, 12 ZETTI.
***DEFENDERS:*** 2 JORGINHO, 14 CAFU, 16 LEONARDO, 6 BRANCO, 4 Ricardo GOMES, 3 RICARDO ROCHA, 13 ALDAIR, 15 MARCIO SANTOS.
***Midfielders:*** 5 MAURO SILVA, 8 DUNGA, 17 MAZINHO, 9 ZINHO, 10 RAI, 18 PAULO SERGIO.
***Forwards:*** 7 BEBETO, 11 ROMARIO, 20 RONALDO, 19 MULLER, 21 VIOLA.
***Coach:*** Carlos Alberto PARREIRA

## Bulgaria

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Borislav MIKHAILOV *(left)*, 12 Plamen NIKOLOV.
***Defenders:*** 2 Emil KREMENLIEV, 3 Trifon IVANOV, 4 Tzanko TZVETANOV, 5 Petar HUBCHEV, 15 Nikolai ILIEV, 16 Ilian KIRYAKOV.
***Midfielders:*** 9 Yordan LECHKOV, 20 Krasimir BALAKOV, 6 Zlatko YANKOV, 14 Bontcho GUENTCHEV, 11 Daniel BORIMIROV, 19 Georgi GEORGIEV.
***Forwards:*** 8 Hristo STOICHKOV, 7 Emil KOSTADINOV, 18 Petar ALEXANDROV, 21 Velko YOTOV, 22 Ivailo ANDONOV, 10 Nasko SIRAKOV, 13 Ivailo YORDANOV, 17 Petar Mihtarski.
***Coach:*** Dimitar PENEV

## Cameroon

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Joseph-Antoine BELL, 22 Jacques SONGO'O, 21 Thomas NKONO.
***Defenders:*** 14 Stephen TATAW, 4 Samuel Ekeme NDIBA, 5 Victor NDIP-AKEM, 13 Raymond KALLA, 3 Rigobert Bahanang SONG, 15 Hans AGBO.
***Midfielders:*** 17 Marc Vivien FOE, 2 Andre KANA-BIYICK, 18 Jean-Pierre Fiala FIALA, 12 Paul-Serge LOGA, 6 Thomas LIBIH, 8 Emile MBOUH.
***Forwards:*** 9 Roger MILLA, 10 Louis MFEDE, 20 Georges MOUYEME-ELONGANCE, 7 Francois OMAM-BIYICK *(left)*, 19 David EMBE, 16 Alphonse TCHAMI, 11 Emmanuel Kessack MABOUANG.

***Coach:*** Henri MICHEL (Fra)

## Colombia

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Oscar CORDOBA *(left)*, 12 Farid MONDRAGON, 22 Jose Maria PAZO.
***Defenders:*** 15 Luis Carlos PEREA, 3 Alexis MENDOZA, 2 Andres ESCOBAR, 4 Luis HERRERA, 20 Wilson PEREZ, 18 Oscar CORTES, 13 Nestor ORTIZ.
***Midfielders:*** 19 Fredy RINCON, 14 Leonel ALVAREZ, 6 Gabriel GOMEZ, 10 Carlos VALDERRAMA, 17 Mauricio SERNA, 5 Herman GAVIRIA, 8 Harold LOZANO.
***Forwards:*** 21 Faustino ASPRILLA, 9 Ivan VALENCIANO, 11 Adolfo VALENCIA, 7 Antony DE AVILA, 16 Victor ARISTIZABAL.
***Coach:*** Francisco MATURANA

## Germany

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Bodo ILLGNER, 12 Andreas KOPKE, 22 Oliver KAHN.
***Defenders:*** 14 Thomas BERTHOLD, 3 Andreas BREHME, 6 Guido BUCHWALD, 5 Thomas HELMER, 4 Jurgen KOHLER, 10 Lothar MATTHAUS, 2 Thomas STRUNZ, 17 Martin WAGNER.
***Midfielders:*** 21 Mario BASLER, 20 Stefan EFFENBERG, 15 Maurizio GAUDINO, 8 Thomas HASSLER, 7 Andreas MOLLER, 16 Matthias SAMMER.
***Forwards:*** 19 Ulf KIRSTEN, 18 Jurgen KLINSMANN, 9 Karlheinz RIEDLE, 13 Rudi VOLLER, 11 Stefan KUNTZ.
***Coach:*** Berti VOGTS

## Greece

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Antonis MINOU, 15 Christos KARKAMANIS, 20 Ilias ATMATZIDIS.

***Defenders:*** 2 Stratos APOSTOLAKIS *(left)*, 13 Vaios KARAYANNIS, 3 Thanasis KOLITSIDAKIS, 5 Yannis KALITZAKIS, 4 Stelios MANOLAS, 18 Kyriakos KARATAIDES, 22 Alexis ALEXIOU.
***Midfielders:*** 17 Minas HATZIDES, 6 Panayotis TSALOUHIDES, 8 Nikos NIOPLIAS, 19 Savvas KOFFIDES, 12 Spyros MARANGOS, 21 Alexis ALEXANDRIS.
***Forwards:*** 9 Nikos MACHLAS, 11 Nikos TSIANTAKIS, 10 Tasos MITROPOULOS, 16 Alexis ALEXOUDIS, 14 Vassilis DIMITRIADES, 7 Dimitris SARAVAKOS.
***Coach:*** Alketas PANAGOULIAS

## Holland

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Ed DE GOEY, 13 Edwin VAN DER SAR, 22 Theo SNELDERS.
***Defenders:*** 15 Danny BLIND, 2 Frank DE BOER, 14 Ulrich VAN GOBBEL, 21 John DE WOLF, 18 Stan VALCKX, 4 Ronald KOEMAN.
***Midfielders:*** 3 Frank RIJKAARD, 5 Rob WITSCHGE, 16 Arthur NUMAN, 6 Jan WOUTERS, 8 Wim JONK, 20 Aron WINTER.
***Forwards:*** 9 Ronald DE BOER, 7 Marc OVERMARS, 19 Peter VAN VOSSEN, 17 Gaston TAUMENT, 10 Dennis BERGKAMP, 11 Bryan ROY, 12 John BOSMAN.
***Coach:*** Dick ADVOCAAT

## Italy

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Gianluca PAGLIUCA, 12 Luca MARCHEGIANI, 22 Luca BUCCI.
***Defenders:*** 2 Luigi APOLLONI, 3 Antonio BENARRIVO, 7 Lorenzo MINOTTI, 4 Alessandro COSTACURTA, 6 Franco BARESI, 5 Paolo MALDINI *(left)*, 9 Mauro TASSOTTI, 8 Roberto MUSSI.

***Midfielders:*** 13 Dino BAGGIO, 15 Antonio CONTE, 16 Roberto DONADONI, 11 Demetrio ALBERTINI, 17 Alberigo EVANI, 14 Nicola BERTI.
***Forwards:*** 10 Roberto BAGGIO, 20 Giuseppe SIGNORI, 18 Pier Luigi CASIRAGHI, 19 Daniele MASSARO, 21 Gianfranco ZOLA.
***Coach:*** Arrigo SACCHI

## Mexico

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Jorge CAMPOS, 22-Adrian CHAVEZ, 12 Felix FERNANDEZ.
***Defenders:*** 4 Ignacio AMBRIZ, 21 Raul GUTIERREZ, 3 Juan RAMIREZ, 5 Ramon RAMIREZ, 18 Jose SALGADO, 2 Claudio SUAREZ.
***Midfielders:*** 6 Marcelino BERNAL, 13 Juan Carlos CHAVEZ, 14 Joaquin DEL OLMO, 15 Missael ESPINOSA, 17 Benjamin GALINDO, 8 Alberto GARCIA, 20 Jorge RODRIGUEZ, 16 Luis VALDES.
***Forwards:*** 11 Luis Alves ZAGUE, 10 LUIS GARCIA, 7 Carlos HERMOSILLO, 19 Luis Miguel SALVADOR, 9 Hugo SANCHEZ.
***Coach:*** Miguel Mejia BARON

## Morroco

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Khalil AZMI, 22 Zakaria ALAOUI, 12 Said D'GHAY.
***Defenders:***
6 Nourredine NAYBET, 2 Abdellah NACER, 5 Ismail TRIKI, 3 Abdelkrim HADRIOUI, 14 Ahmed MASBAHI, 18 Rachid NEKROUZ.
***Midfielders:*** 7 Mustapha HADJI, 11 Rachid DAOUDI, 8 Rachid AZZOUZI, 15 Larbi HABABI, 4 Tahar LAKHLEJ, , 10 Mustapha EL HADDAOUI *(below)*.

***Forwards:*** 9 Mohamed CHAOUCH, 20 Hassan KACHLOUL, 16 Hassan NADER, 19 Mjid BOUYBOUB, 17 Abdeslam LAGHRISSI, 13 Ahmed BAHJA, 21 Aziz SAMADI.
***Coach:*** Abdellah Ajri BLINDA

## Nigeria

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Peter RUFAI, 22 Wilfred AGBONAVBARE, 16 Alloy AGU.
***Defenders:*** 20 Uche OKAFOR, 2 Augustine EGUAVOEN, 4 Stephen KESHI, 6 Chidi NWANU, 19 Mike EMENALO, 13 Emeka EZEUGO, 5 Uche OKECHUKWU, 15 Sunday OLISEH, 3 Ben IROHA.
***Midfielders:*** 8 Thompson OLIHA, 18 Efan EKOKU, 12 Samson SIASIA, 7 Finidi GEORGE, 10 Augustine OKOCHA.
***Forwards:*** 9 Rashidi YEKINI, 17 Victor IKPEBA, 21 Mutiu ADEPOJU, 11 Emmanuel AMUNIKE, 14 Daniel AMOKACHI.
***Coach:*** Clemens WESTERHOF (Hol)

# Official USA 94 squads

## Norway

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Erik THORSTVEDT, 12 Frode GRODAAS, 13 Ola BY RISE.
***Defenders:*** 2 Gunnar HALLE, 4 Rune BRATSETH *(below)*, 5 Stig Inge BJORNEBYE, 14 Roger NILSEN, 18 Alf Inge HAALAND, 20 Henning BERG, 3 Erland JOHNSEN.

***Midfielders:*** 6 Jostein FLO, 7 Erik MYKLAND, 8 Oyvind LEONHARDSEN, 10 Kjetil REKDAL, 11 Jahn Ivar JAKOBSEN, 22 Lars BOHINEN, 15 Karl-Petter LOEKEN, 19 Roar STRAND, 17 Dan EGGEN.
***Forwards:*** 9 Jan-Aage FJORTOFT, 16 Goran SORLOTH, 21 Sigurd RUSHFELDT.
***Coach:*** Egil OLSEN

## Russia

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Stanislav CHERCHESOV, 16 Dmitry KHARIN.
***Defenders:*** 4 Dmitry GALYAMIN, 21 Dmitry KHLESTOV, 5 Yuri NIKIFOROV, 3 Sergei GORLUKOVICH, 18 Viktor ONOPKO, 6 Vladislav TERNAVSKY.
***Midfielders:*** 8 Dmitry POPOV, 12 Omari TETRADZE, 7 Andrei PYATNITSKY, 2 Dmitry KUZNETSOV, 17 Ilya TSYMBALAR, 13 Alexander BORODYUK, 14 Igor KORNEYEV, 20 Igor LEDYAKHOV.
***Forwards:*** 22 Sergei YURAN, 9 Oleg SALENKO, 11 Vladimir BESCHASTNYKH, 15 Dmitry RADCHENKO, 19 Alexander MOSTOVOI, 10 Valery KARPIN.
***Coach:*** Pavel SADYRIN

## South Korea

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 CHOI In-young, 22 LEE Won-jae, 21 PARK Chul-woo.

***Defenders:*** 20 HONG Myong-bo *(left)*, 7 SHIN Hong-gi, 2 CHUNG Jong-son, 5 PARK Jung-bae, 4 KIM Pan-keun, 17 GU Sang-bum, 12 CHOI Young-il, 13 AHN Ik-soo, 3 LEE Jong-hwa.
***Midfielders:*** 9 KIM Joo-sung, 10 KO Jeong-woon, 6 LEE Young-jin, 8 NOH Jung-yoon, 19 CHOI Moon-shik, 11 SEO Jung-won, 14 CHOI Dae-shik, 16 HA Seok-ju.
***Forwards:*** 15 CHO Jin-ho, 18 HWANG Sun-hong.
***Coach:*** Kim HO

## Sweden

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Thomas RAVELLI, 12 Lars ERIKSSON, 22 Magnus HEDMAN.
***Defenders:*** 3 Patrik ANDERSSON, 4 Joachim BJORKLUND, 15 Jan ERIKSSON, 14 Pontus KAAMARK, 5 Roger LJUNG, 13 Mikael NILSSON, 2 Roland NILSSON.
***Midfielders:*** 21 Jesper BLOMQVIST, 8 Klas INGESSON, 16 Anders LIMPAR, 18 Hakan MILD, 17 Stefan REHN, 6 Stefan SCHWARZ, 9 Jonas THERN.
***Forwards:*** 19 Kennet ANDERSSON, 11 Tomas BROLIN, 10 Martin DAHLIN, 20 Magnus ERLINGMARK, 7 Henrik LARSSON.
***Coach:*** Tommy SVENSSON

## Rep. of Ireland

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Pat BONNER, 22 Alan KELLY.
***Defenders:*** 12 Gary KELLY, 2 Denis IRWIN, 5 Paul McGRATH, 14 Phil BABB, 13 Alan KERNAGHAN, 4 Kevin MORAN, 3 Terry PHELAN.
***Midfielders:*** 8 Ray HOUGHTON, 21 Jason McATEER, 6 Roy KEANE, 10 John SHERIDAN, 7 Andy TOWNSEND, 18 Ronnie WHELAN, 11 Steve STAUNTON, 17 Eddie McGOLDRICK, 19 Alan McLOUGHLIN.
***Forwards:*** 9 John ALDRIDGE, 16 Tony CASCARINO, 15 Tommy COYNE, 20 David KELLY.
***Coach:*** Jack CHARLTON (Eng)

## Switzerland

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Marco PASCOLO, 22 Martin BRUNNER, 12 Stefan LEHMANN.
***Defenders:*** 13 Andy EGLI, 5 Alain GEIGER, 4 Dominique HERR, 2 Marc HOTTIGER, 3 Yvan QUENTIN, 18 Martin RUEDA, 19 Juerg STUDER.
***Midfielders:*** 16 Thomas BICKEL, 6 Georges BREGY, 17 Sebastien FOURNIER, 8 Christophe OHREL, 10 Ciriaco SFORZA, 7 Alain SUTTER, 21 Thomas WYSS, 20 Patrick SYLVESTRE.
***Forwards:*** 11 Stephane CHAPUISAT *(below)*, 15 Marco GRASSI, 9 Adrian KNUP, 14 Nestor SUBIAT.

***Coach:*** Roy HODGSON (Eng)

## Romania

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Florin PRUNEA, 12 Bogdan STELEA, 22 Stefan Gabriel PREDA.
***Defenders:*** 2 Dan PETRESCU, 4 Miodrag BELODEDICI, 3 Daniel Claudiu PRODAN, 14 Gheorghe MIHALI, 13 Tibor SELYMES, 19 Corneliu PAPURA.
***Midfielders:*** 6 Gheorghe POPESCU, 10 Gheorghe HAGI *(left)*, 5 Ionut LUPESCU, 8 Iulian CHIRITA, 15 Basarab Nica PANDURU, 20 Ovidiu STINGA, 18 Constantin GILCA, 7 Dorinel MUNTEANU.

***Forwards:*** 9 Florin RADUCIOIU, 21 Marian IVAN, 17 Viorel MOLDOVAN, 11 Ilie DUMITRESCU, 16 Ioan VLADOIU.
***Coach:*** Anghel IORDANESCU

## Saudi Arabia

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Mohammad AL DEAYEA, 21 Hussein AL SADIQ, 22 Ibrahim AL HILWA.
***Defenders:*** 2 Abdullah AL DOSARI, 18 Awad AL ANADI, 19 Abdullah SALEH, 5 Ahmed MADANI, 6 Faud AMIN, 3 Mohammad AL KHLAWI, 4 Abdullah ZEBERMAWI, 15 Saleh AL DAOUD, 13 Mohammad AL JAWWAD, 17 Yasser AL TAIFI.
***Midfielders:*** 8 Fahad AL BISHI, 16 Talal AL JIBREEN, 10 Saeed OWAIRAN, 11 Fahd AL MUHALLIL.
***Forwards:*** 9 Majed MOHAMMED, 14 Khalid AL MUWALLID, 12 Sami AL JABER, 7 Fahd AL GHASHAYAN, 20 Hamzah FALATAH.
***Coach:*** Jorge SOLARI (Arg)

## Spain

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Andoni ZUBIZARRETA, 13 Jose CANIZARES, 22 Julen LOPETEGUI.
***Defenders:*** 2 Albert FERRER, 12 SERGI Barjuan, 20 Miguel Angel NADAL, 5 ABELARDO Fernandez, 18 Rafael ALKORTA, 17 Salvador VORO, 3 Jorge OTERO, 4 Francisco CAMARASA.
***Midfielders:*** 10 Jose Maria BAKERO, 7 Juan GOIKOETXEA, 11 Aitor BEGUIRISTAIN, 9 Josep GUARDIOLA, 6 Fernando HIERRO, 15 Jose CAMINERO, 8 Julen GUERRERO, 16 FELIPE Minambres.
***Forwards:*** 21 LUIS ENRIQUE, 14 Juan CASTANO, 19 Julio SALINAS.
***Coach:*** Javier CLEMENTE

## United States

***Goalkeepers:*** 1 Tony MEOLA, 12 Jurgen SOMMER, 18 Brad FRIEDEL.
***Defenders:*** 2 Mike LAPPER, 3 Mike BURNS, 4 Cle KOOIMAN, 17 Marcelo BALBOA, 20 Paul CALIGIURI, 21 Fernando CLAVIJO, 22 Alexi LALAS.
***Midfielders:*** 5 Thomas DOOLEY, 6 John HARKES, 7 Hugo PEREZ, 9 Tab RAMOS, 13 Cobi JONES, 19 Claudio REYNA, 16 Mike SORBER.
***Forwards:*** 8 Ernie STEWART, 10 Roy WEGERLE, 11 Eric WYNALDA, 14 Frank KLOPAS, 15 Joe-Max MOORE.
***Coach:*** Velibor "Bora" MILUTINOVIC (Cro)

# Americans dream on



JUNE 18 = PONTIAC SILVERDOME

## UNITED STATES 1 SWITZERLAND 1

| Wynalda 45 | | Bregy 39 |
|---|---|---|
| Meola | 1 | Pascolo |
| Kooiman | 2 | Hottiger |
| Lalas | 3 | Herr |
| Balboa | 4 | Geiger |
| Caligiuri | 5 | Quentin |
| Ramos | 6 | Ohrel |
| Dooley | 7 | Sforza |
| Harkes, | 8 | Bregy |
| Sorber | 9 | Bickel |
| Stewart | 10 | Sutter |
| Wynalda | 11 | Chapuisat |
| Bora Milutinovic | Coach | Roy Hodgson |

**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 73,425. **Ref:** Lamolina (Arg)

**Substitutions:** Jones for Stewart (80mins), Wegerle for Wynalda (57mins), Subiat for Bickel (71mins), Wyss for Sforza (76mins)

**Booked:** Harkes (US), Herr & Subiat (Swi).

Great to be alive . . . American players celebrate.

## LIVELY START BY MEOLA'S MEN

**THE AMERICAN hosts set their own World Cup campaign under way with a draw against the Swiss which providing a pleasing and entertaining spectacle but, to be frank, it was a displeasing result for both nations.**

First, because each team had been desperate to open a difficult group with a victory; second, because each had the opportunities to win it; third, because both faced tougher challenges ahead.

The Americans played probably as close to as well as possible. But a glance through their line-up in the Silverdome soon laid bare their limitations.

Skipper Meola is a much-improved goalkeeper compared with the raw athlete-but-not-much-else of the 1990 finals, and says he has worked hard studying the great goalkeepers of the world to improve his handling, catching and penalty box command. But he was badly at fault on the Swiss goal, failing to organise a defensive wall properly and thus allowing Switzerland to put in the man who "hid" Bregy's curling free-kick until the ball was all but in the net.

The back four of Kooiman, Lalas, Balboa and Caligiuri could not be faulted for honesty and dedication but they lacked much potential for imaginative use of the ball once they had won it. The midfield hardly helped. Dooley, the big German-born defender, looked a little out of position; Ramos flitted inconsistently in and out of the game; Harkes took the half the match to make his presence felt; and Sorber, a surprise choice, remained precisely that.

Up front Wynalda and Stewart both promised better. Stewart's pace worried the Swiss defence early on while Wynalda, playing despite suffering from a skin allergy, contributed a superb equalising free-kick before he ran out of steam and had to be substituted.

Switzerland really should have done better. They were handicapped by the ankle injury which robbed them of big striker Knup. But manager Roy Hodgson chose to replace him with a midfielder, Bickel. The result was that Chapuisat spent most of the match fighting a lone battle up front and doing so to comparatively little effect. Not until late in the second half did Switzerland send on a second striker, Subiat, and by then the path of the game had been drawn.

Hodgson's tactical caution was reflected in the way his players approached the game. The Americans should have held few terrors, yet it was not until towards the end of the first half that Sutter, from wide on the left, began to attack the defenders one on one. When he did, he forced the free-kick that brought Switzerland's goal.

Hottiger was a sound right-back, attacking as often as he could and covering quickly and effectively. Geiger and Herr read the game superbly at the back in the centre after an uncertain start, and Bregy linked up the midfield in his usual tidy fashion.

The one particular disappointment was Sforza, who was nothing like his usual forceful self — save once in the second half when he crashed in to a rock-solid tackle from Kooiman and had to be substituted.

The teams responded to the lively atmosphere in the first-ever indoor World Cup tie by maintaining a bright pace. Indeed, as the match went on and the humidity rose, so the grass began to sweat and caused players to lose their footing on at least a dozen occasions.

Herr put in the first serious goal effort, a 15th-minute header that Meola stopped with his finger-tips. Then Sforza had a low drive well saved by the American captain, diving to his left.

The Americans occasionally embarrassed the Swiss defence with their pace and their speed of support on the breakaway, but Switzerland took the lead after Sutter cut in from the left and was brought down in full flight, just outside the penalty box, by Dooley.

Other referees than Argentina's Lamolina would have sent him off and he would have had no grounds, under the new interpretation of the rules, for complaint. Yet the challenge was unnecessary anyway because Lalas was waiting for Sutter just inside the penalty area. Due punishment was exacted when Bregy curled his free-kick over the sloppy defensive wall.

That appeared to be a decisive blow but the hosts struck back on half-time when Harkes made the most of a clumsy challenge some 30 yards from goal and Wynalda swept a glorious free-kick just inside the angle.

Second-half action was evenly balance. Quentin, Sforza and Ohrel all had efforts saved, and Ramos should have done better than pull a cross-shot wide of the far post. Dooley, in on goal unmarked, and Sutter, who moved over to the right before beating three men and then pushing a soft shot into Meola's arms, should have scored.

June 22 = Pontiac

## ROMANIA 1 SWITZERLAND 4

| Hagi 36 | | Sutter 16, Chapuisat 53, Knup 66, Bregy 72 |
|---|---|---|
| Stelea | 1 | Pascolo |
| Mihali | 2 | Hottiger |
| Popescu | 3 | Herr |
| Prodan | 4 | Geiger |
| Hagi | 5 | Quentin |
| Petrescu | 6 | Ohrel |
| Lupescu | 7 | Sforza |
| Belodedici | 8 | Bregy |
| Munteanu | 9 | Sutter |
| Dumitrescu | 10 | Knup |
| Raducioiu | 11 | Chapuisat |
| Anghel Iordanescu | Coach | Roy Hodgson |

**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 61,428. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun).

***Substitutions:*** Panduru for Lupescu (84mins), Vladoiu for Dumitrescu (69mins), Sylvestre for Ohrel (82mins), Bickel for Sutter (70mins).

***Sent off:*** Vladoiu (72mins)

***Booked:*** Mihali, Lupescu & Belodedici (Romania).

## SWISS RUSH IN AS ROMANIA SLIDE

**SWITZERLAND won their first match in the finals for 40 years with a panache and style which made a nonsense of their over-cautious approach against their American hosts.**

Alain Sutter, Stephane Chapuisat and the returning Adrian Knup (two) scored the goals whch turned the group upside down with the Swiss switching from also-rans to group leaders in 90 minutes.

Right from the start there was a different feel about this Swiss team. Sutter, having learned his lesson perhaps, played much further forward to tease and

JUNE 18 =
ROSE BOWL, PASADENA

## COLOMBIA 1 — ROMANIA 3

| Valencia 43 | | Raducioiu 16, 89<br>Hagi 34 |
|---|---|---|
| Cordoba | 1 | Stelea |
| Escobar | 2 | Petrescu |
| Herrera | 3 | Belodedici |
| Perez | 4 | Popescu |
| Perea | 5 | Prodan |
| Alvarez | 6 | Mihali |
| Valderrama | 7 | Lupescu |
| Gomez | 8 | Munteanu |
| Rincon | 9 | Hagi |
| Valencia | 10 | Dumitrescu |
| Asprilla | 11 | Raducioiu |
| Francisco Maturana *Coach* | | Anghel Iordanescu |

**HT:** 1-2. **Att:** 91,865. **Ref:** Tejada (Peru)

***Substitutions:*** Selymes for Dumitrescu (67mins), Papura for Raducioiu (89mins)

***Booked:*** Herrera, Valderrama & Alvarez (Colombia), Raducioiu (Romania)

# HAGI MAKES AN EARLY MARK

**ROMANIA produced the first upset with this victory, achieved with a classic counter-punching performance. Colombia dominated play and thrilled the crowd with their pace and skill.**

But they never breached the centre of the Romanian defence and only rarely earned goal-pressure space on the wings.

As much as victory for Romania over Colombia — one of the most fancied competitors in the ante-post betting — this also was a win for Gheorghe Hagi over Carlos Valderrama, two of the finest playmakers in the world.

Colombia attacked from the start yet Romania took the lead with virtually their first attack when Raducioiu held off three defenders before twisting and turning and firing past Cordoba. The goalkeeper was horribly at fault 17 minutes later when Hagi, spotting him a yard off his line, clipped a long, dipping cross over his head and hands and just under the bar. The cross-shot, struck with marvellous precision from way out on the Romanian left, signalled that perhaps Hagi was ready, this time around, to find form worthy of the World Cup.

Colombia pulled back one long-overdue goal five minutes before half-time when Valencia scored with a near-post header to a left-wing corner from Perez. But, for all their attacking effort in the second half, they failed to improve on that one goal.

Stelea, who had made superb first-half saves from Valencia (twice) and Rincon, produced more impressive stops from Asprilla and Alvarez before Raducioiu snatched a third Romanian goal on the break shortly before the final whistle.

Colombia coach Francisco Maturana said: "We made mistakes we haven't made before. We were under pressure and maybe a little overwhelmed at being in the World Cup finals. It was a valuable lesson for us.

"We need to be more of a team rather than 11 individuals. In the second half we fell apart. I liked Romania. They have skill and great discipline and, on the day, they had the luck they needed."

Two goals . . . Florin Raducioiu of Romania

test the Romanian man-markers with his pace and skill; Knup took the kicks and Chapuisat took the eye. Clearly the Swiss team's star striker enjoyed having a partner to share the burden.

In midfield and defence Switzerland were tight and well-organised as they put together their best national team performance in the memory of most of their fans. For breadth, stage and pressure it outranked even the qualifying victory over Italy.

The teams presented a contrast of styles. Switzerland attacked from the foundation of a flat back four playing zone defence while the Romanians defended with a six-man midfield supposedly screening two man-markers and a sweeper. But even that fishermen's net could not prevent the Swiss slipping through time and again.

Sutter had a goal disallowed for offside in the 12th minute but made amends three minutes later when Chapuisat held off the defence to pop the ball back into the path of the new Bayern Munich man, who shot fiercely home from the edge of the penalty box.

Romania, of course, looked to Hagi to rescue them and lead them out of the wilderness. He stationed himself wide on the right to direct the early attacks but met with no success until he wandered away into the centre, picked up a short pass from Dumitrescu and struck a 25-yard drive beyond Pascolo.

One-one at half-time was a fair reflection of the first half but the second belonged in its entirety to Switzerland, who regained the lead seven minutes after the break. Romania failed to clear a Bregy cross from a corner on the right and after a messy scrap just inside the centre of the penalty box — in which referee Jouini might have well have penalised at least two Swiss players for hands — Chapuisat scored Switzerland's second.

Romania had a goal of their own disallowed for offside before Switzerland extended their lead in the 65th minute. They took a leaf out of the Romanians' counter-attacking book as Ohrel broke up an attack just inside his own half and fed Sforza, who ran through from halfway before squaring into space for the unmarked Knup to score with ease.

The match quickly disintegrated for Romania. In the 72nd minute they conceded a fourth goal when the top of Knup's head deflected a curling Bregy free-kick against a defender, goalkeeper Stelea's shoulder and on into the net. Another minute and Romanian substitute Vladoiu was sent off — only three minutes after his entry — for a reckless, foot-up challenge on Ohrel.

Romania were all at sea. They had to go on chasing a goal in case goal difference should become crucial at the end of the group, but forcing the play is not their game and Switzerland were now much too firmly in control to allow such as Hagi and Raducioiu any glimpse of light at the end of their tunnel.

Swiss skipper Geiger said: "We were under a lot of pressure. At half-time it could have gone either way so I tried to ease the tension by telling the team just to do their best."

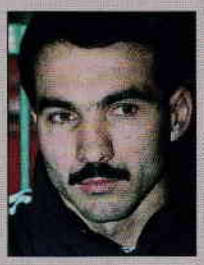
Fourth goal . . . Georges Bregy scores for Switzerland.

● America's new hope, **CLAUDIO REYNA**, missed the entire first round because of muscle trouble.

● **JOHN HARKES** *(above)* thought briefly that he had been reprieved from second-round suspension, after a misunderstanding at the press conference following the defeat by Romania when he gained his second yellow card. An American protest against the booking, for not retreating at a free-kick, was dismissed.

● Switzerland's **ADRIAN KNUP** made no secret of his disappointment at being left out of the first game, against the US. Manager Roy Hodgson blamed an ankle injury but Knup had a pain-killing injection so he could be available as a substitute.

● Colombia coach **FRANCISCO MATURANA** announced his impending resignation as soon as the defeat against the US was over and elimination virtually certain.



● Romanian midfielder **IOAN VLADOIU** *(left)* was banned for three games for his red-card foul on Switzerland's Stephane Chapuisat. Vladoiu, who plays for Rapid Bucharest and was the last player selected for the Romanian squad, was on the pitch at the Silverdome only four minutes after substituting for Dumitrescu. He was sent home early by the Romanian FA not only for the expulsion but because of a clash with coach Iordanescu after the incident.

● Sweden were allowed to send home for Under-21 centre-back **TEDDY LUCIC** after Jan Eriksson of Kaiserslautern aggravated a thigh injury in training on the eve of the finals.

## GROUP A – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1** Romania | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| **A2** Switzerland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| **A3** United States | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| A4 Colombia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

**LEADING SCORERS:** 2 Bregy (Switzerland), Raducioiu (Romania), Hagi (Romania).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 497,550.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 82,925.

Two together . . . Stewart of the US (above) and Dumitrescu of Romania.

JUNE 22 = PASADENA

**UNITED STATES 2 — COLOMBIA 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Escobar 33 (og), Stewart 50* | | *Valencia 89* |
| Meola | 1 | Cordoba |
| Kooiman | 2 | Herrera |
| Balboa | 3 | Perea |
| Lalas | 4 | Escobar |
| Caligiuri | 5 | Perez |
| Ramos | 6 | Valderrama |
| Dooley | 7 | Rincon |
| Harkes | 8 | Gaviria |
| Sorber | 9 | Alvarez |
| Stewart | 10 | De Avila |
| Wynalda | 11 | Asprilla |
| Bora Milutinovic | *Coach* | Francisco Maturana |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 93,194. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita).

***Substitutions:*** Jones for Stewart (63mins), Wegerle for Wynalda (61mins), Valencia for De Avila (46mins), Valencia for Asprilla (46mins).

***Booked:*** Lalas (United States), De Avila (Colombia).

## ASTONISHING – THAT'S AMERICA

**THE United States produced their best-ever World Cup performance to astonish even their own fans with the pace and commitment which destroyed a wilting, fading, bunch of disorganised, baffled Colombians.**

Colombia did not enter the match into the best of moods. They had come into the finals believing all the hype built around them and their spirit was not improved when the team management decided to pull Gabriel Gomez out of their team hours before the game because of death threats.

The Americans sought to take immediate advantage. In only the third minute a defensive error let in Stewart but he shot wastefully wide. At the other end Colombia then went within a coat of paint of taking the lead themselves in a goalmouth scramble when Sorber deflected the ball against his own post and a follow-up shot from Gavira was cleared off the goal line.

Colombia threw men with more confusion than coherence, giving the Americans rare space to attack on the break. Wynalda scraped an angled shot across the Colombian goal-line and it bounced away to safety off the face of the far post. Five more minutes and the United States really were in front with a goal which said everything about the state of befuddled anxiety at the heart of the visitors' defence. Harkes drove in an over-optimistic cross-shot but Escobar, trying to cut out the ball, merely stabbed it back through the centre of his own goal with goalkeeper Cordoba sliding in the opposite direction.

The goalkeeper nearly handed the Americans a second goal when he dashed out of his penalty box and his weak clearance attempt bounced off the challenging Wynalda. Fortunately Herrera was on hand to thump the ball away upfield to safety.

Colombia manager Francisco Maturana proved further evidence of the increasing sense of desperation in the camp when — having dropped Valencia from the starting line-up — he brought him back into and action along with Valenciano and took out both the anonymous De Avila and the ineffective Asprilla.

The switch had no immediate effect. Indeed, the United States might have extended their lead. Lalas thumped home a shot from the edge of the penalty and — video evidence proved — was wrongly robbed by a bad offside decision. To compound Lalas's annoyance, he was booked for playing on when the whistle had gone.

Not that it mattered as far as the American pursuit of victory was concerned. Two minutes later Ramos produced his first pass of real weight in the tournament to open up the back of the Colombian defence so Stewart could use his pace to reach the ball just ahead of the onrushing Cordoba and side-foot it on into the net.

In the last minute substitute Valencia pulled one goal back after Meola could only block — but not hold — a close-range drive from Rincon.

One of the most memorable moments of the match did not result in a goal. It came midway through the second

JUNE 26 = PASADENA

**UNITED STATES 0 — ROMANIA 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | *Petrescu 16* |
| Meola | 1 | Prunea |
| Clavijo | 2 | Prodan |
| Balboa | 3 | Belodedici |
| Lalas | 4 | Lupescu |
| Caligiuri | 5 | Petrescu |
| Ramos | 6 | Munteanu |
| Dooley | 7 | Popescu |
| Sorber | 8 | Hagi |
| Harkes | 9 | Selymes |
| Stewart | 10 | Dumitrescu |
| Wynalda | 11 | Raducioiu |
| Bora Milutinovic | *Coach* | Anghel Iordanescu |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 93,869. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)

***Substitutions:*** Jones for Ramos 63mins), Wegerle for Sorber (74mins), Mihali for Belodedici (87mins), Gilca for Raducioiu (84mins).

***Booked:*** Harkes & Clavijo (United States), Raducioiu (Romania).

## PETRESCU RESCUE BLOCKS BORA

**ROMANIA took top place in Group A thanks to a first-half goal from Dan Petrescu, puncturing the excited balloon which had risen towards the World Cup skies after the Americans' midweek victory over Colombia.**

This day they were brought back down to earth, might have lost by more and had some painful weaknesses exposed — most particularly in goal, where skipper Meola looked more like the goalkeeper people remembered and not the goalkeeper he was reputed to have become.

Coach Bora Milutinovic retained the team who had beaten Colombia but the pressure of attacking failure led him to introduce strikers Cobi Jones and Roy Wegerle late in the game, for Tab Ramos and Mike Sorber. All to no avail.

Romania, having adjusted only slowly to the pace of the World Cup and their unreal life in the United States and the football circus, played with composure and great sense. Their time-play late in the game, when they used the wings with intelligence to relieve the pressure on their defence, greatly helped use up the time.

The Americans did, at least, take away the consolation of having qualified for the second round — which was quite as much as the vast majority of their fans and officials would have hoped before the tournament began.

Milutinovic said, interestingly, that he thought this American performance better than the one against Colombia. He said: "I'd like to remind everyone that we went for four points and now we have them. Maybe we didn't finish in the position everybody would have liked. But, in a one-off game, anything can happen."

Romania clearly thought the same but considered that their one-off game — and a bad one — had been their 4-1 defeat by Switzerland. They played their usual, unusual tactics with a sweeper and two markers at the back and then six men across midfield, so they could defend in waves of men even before the opposition could approach their defence.

Hagi was the master of the match once Romania had weathered an early storm in which Harkes shot against a post and Wynalda headed narrowly wide. Romania went straight downfield, Raducioiu adeptly switched play from left to right with a pass inside and behind Caligiuri, and Petrescu slid home his shot between Meola and the near post.

JUNE 26 = PALO ALTO

**SWITZERLAND 0 — COLOMBIA 2**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | *Gaviria 44, Lozano 89* |
| Pascolo | 1 | Cordoba |
| Hottiger | 2 | Herrera |
| Herr | 3 | Escobar |
| Geiger | 4 | Mendoza |
| Quentin | 5 | Perez |
| Ohrel | 6 | Valderrama |
| Sforza | 7 | Gaviria |
| Bregy | 8 | Rincon |
| Sutter | 9 | Alvarez |
| Chapuisat | 10 | Valencia |
| Knup | 11 | Asprilla |
| Roy Hodgson | *Coach* | Francisco Maturana |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 83,769. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)

***Substitutions:*** Grassi for Sutter (81mns), Subiat for Knup (81mins), Lozano for Gaviria (78mins), De Avila for Valencia (63mins).

***Booked:*** Knup & Bregy (Switzerland), Gaviria, Valderrama & Alvarez (Colombia).

**Two together . . . Bregy (6) and Colombia's Alvarez.**

## HODGSON SETTLES FOR SECOND

**SWITZERLAND lost but English-born coach Roy Hodgson and his men still qualified for the second round as Group A runners-up. Colombia went home with the consolation of a last-match victory thanks to goals from midfielder Herman Gaviria — with a header just before half-time — and a last-minute effort from substitute Harold Lozano. Colombia thus became the first country formally eliminated from the 1994 finals, a sad culmination to a campaign they began as one of the favourites.**

They were inspired by skipper Valderrama in midfield and Asprilla in attack, and created a string of chances in the first half, displaying the sort of form so many people — including Pele — had expected of them.

Valencia wasted a fine chance to put the South Americans ahead in the eighth minute when he volleyed over. Two minutes later midfielder Rincon forced a brilliant save from Pascolo with a powerful left-foot shot.

Pascolo was at fault, however, when he failed to hold Gaviria's header for the first goal after a free-kick from Valderrama.

Despite trailing 1-0, Switzerland refused to come out of their shell in the second half and Asprilla wasted more openings after twice breaking clear on the right. The first time he went down in the penalty area and his optimistic appeal was turned down. On the second he crossed the

# group b

JUNE 19
ROSE BOWL, PASADENA

**CAMEROON 2 — SWEDEN 2**

| *Embe 29, Omam-Biyik 46* | | *Ljung 7, Dahlin 74* |
|---|---|---|
| Bell | 1 | Ravelli |
| Tataw | 2 | Nilsson |
| Kalla | 3 | P Andersson |
| Song | 4 | Bjorklund |
| Agbo | 5 | Ljung |
| Libih | 6 | Ingesson |
| Mbouh | 7 | Thern |
| Mfede | 8 | Schwarz |
| Foe | 9 | Blomqvist |
| Omam-Biyik | 10 | Dahlin |
| Embe | 11 | Brolin |
| Henri Michel | *Coach* | Tommy Svensson |

**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 83,959. **Ref:** Tejada (Per).

***Substitutions:*** Mouyeme for Embe (79mins), Maboang for Mfede (86mins), Larsson for Blomqvist (59mins), K Andersson for Ingesson (75mins)

***Booked:*** Mbouh (Cameroon) & Dahlin (Sweden).

## LIONS KEEP LEGEND ALIVE

**THE LEGEND of the Idomitable Lions lives on. Cameroon, who arrived in the United States short of money, practice and morale, turned on much of the old magic in the sunshine of the Rose Bowl.**

On this display they continued to possess the explosive potential to get at least as far as the quarter-finals again. The draw against Sweden was accomplished thanks to a display in which Cameroon ran the middle section of the game.

This was largely due to the performances of players such as the veteran right-back and skipper Tataw, the big, robust new centre-back Kalla, the tireless, inventive Mfede in midfield and the imaginatively mobile Omam-Biyik and Embe in attack.

Sweden played a neat, tidy and disciplined European game, could have won themselves but lost defensive concentration in an extraordinary fashion twice over and needed to rely on a piece of individual inspiration of their own to rescue a point.

A lively first half was clearly on the way when Ravelli scrambled after only 30 seconds to catch a shot from Embe just beneath the crossbar. But Sweden took the lead after seven minutes when Cameroon failed to pick up Ljung at a left-wing free-kick from Thern which he headed perfectly past Bell.

Initially Sweden held their shape well in defence and midfield, with Dahlin's pace testing Kalla to the limits of fair play and beyond. In the end the defender resorted to less than admirable tactics to slow his man down. Cameroon were fortunate not to concede a penalty when Kalla tripped Dahlin going into the box.

But Sweden proved far from perfect in defence when Roland Nilsson under-hit a back pass, Patrik Andersson missed a tackle on Omam-Biyik and Embe put Cameroon level. Sweden protested for a variety of offences but all in vain.

In the 35th minute, Ingesson shot too hastily and too high after Bell missed a cross from Thern. Then Kalla, growing in confidence, advanced for a corner and sent his header from the back of the pack only inches wide.

Sweden again lost their defensive concentration in the first minute of the second half when 17-year-old centre-back Song launched a long downfield pass. Andersson and Ravelli did not appreciate the danger until Omam-Biyik had outpaced both of them to stretch out a foot and prod the ball into the net.

Ravelli later owned up to a share of the blame; coach Tommy Svensson also picked out Andersson for his mistakes with both goals. Svensson did not name Andersson precisely, but there was no doubt about the identity of the man concerned when he said: "It's not up to me to name players. He knows who he is!"

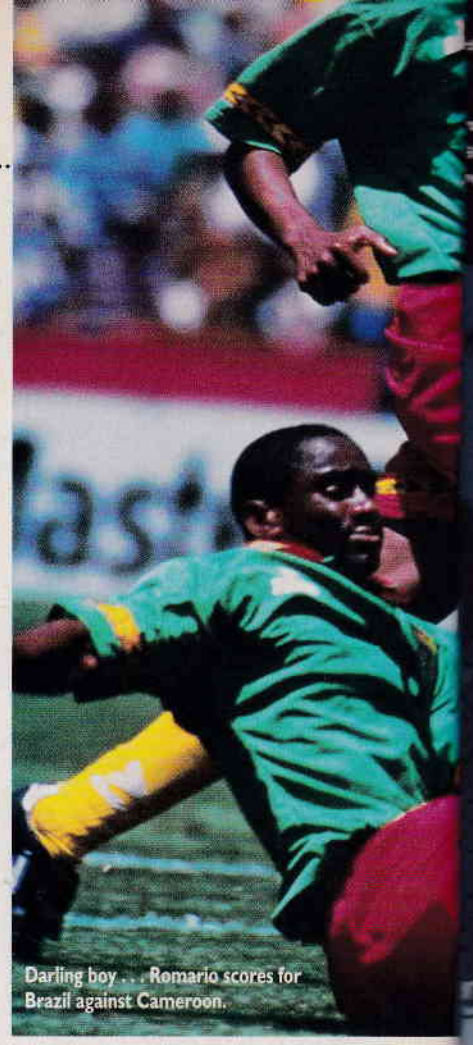
Andersson was again left stranded in the 68th minute when Omam-Biyik engineered a thrilling, high-speed reverse pass move through the Swedish defence. But after striding wide of Ravelli, Omam-Biyik ran out of room and allowed the ball to roll out for a goal-kick.

Sweden sensed that the match was turning back their way and Svensson decided to force the issue by introducing first winger Larsson then the tall, direct striker Kennet Andersson, to refresh his attack and capitalise on increasing fatigue among the Cameroon defenders.

In the 74th minute, Larsson, outstanding for his dreadlocks as much as his ability, picked up a loose ball in midfield and hit a 30-yard drive that Bell tipped against the bar. The ball fell down to Dahlin's chest and was volleyed into the net for Sweden's equaliser.

Brolin and Kennet Andersson even manufactured the openings to turn Sweden into winners, but Bell saved well both times.

Fine entertainment at the Rose Bowl for the second day in succesion, after Colombia v Romania the previous afternoon. But that, after all, is exactly what you would expect at such a venue.



Darling boy . . . Romario scores for Brazil against Cameroon.

# Brazil

JUNE 20 = PALO ALTO

**BRAZIL 2 — RUSSIA 0**

| *Romario 26, Rai 53 (pen)* | | |
|---|---|---|
| Taffarel | 1 | Kharin |
| Jorginho | 2 | Ternavski |
| Ricardo Rocha | 3 | Nikiforov |
| Marcio Santos | 4 | Gorlukovich |
| Leonardo | 5 | Karpin |
| Rai | 6 | Piatnitski |
| Mauro Silva | 7 | Radchenko |
| Dunga | 8 | Kuznetsov |
| Zinho | 9 | Tsimbalar |
| Bebeto | 10 | Khlestov |
| Romario | 11 | Yuran |
| Carlos Parreira | *Coach* | Pavel Sadyrin |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 81,061. **Ref:** Lee Kim-chong (Mau)

***Substitutions:*** Aldair for Ricardo Rocha (74mins), Mazinho for Dunga (85mins), Borodiuk for Radchenko (77mins), Salenko for Yuran (55mins).

***Booked:*** Nikiforov, Khlestov & Kuznetsov (Russia).

Heading West . . . Leonardo of Brazil beats Gorlukovich of Russia.

## ROMARIO'S EARLY WARNING

BRAZIL made the ideal start which every World Cup demands of their World Cup effort, easily flicking aside the challenge — if that is not too positive a word — of a dispirited Russia.

The Brazilians, with the full weight of an 81,000 crowd behind them, played as if the World Cup fear factor had been banished from their game at long last.

Dunga and Mauro Silva sat together in central midfield, with Rai and Zinho wide, respectively, to right and left to create whatever havoc seemed appropriate.

Rai looked as if the sound of the samba drums and the fresh air of selection for Brazil had banished the

# cruise through

blues of a poor personal season with Paris Saint-Germain, while Zinho revealed himself as an effective and skilled cog in the wheels of the action. He was not there to shine; other players had that role. He was there to help link the fibre optics of the Brazilian game so Bebeto and Romario could broadcast the message of attacking football.

The underlying concern for coach Carlos Alberto Parreira must have been that they connected only once in the first half, in the 27th minute, when Bebeto curled over a left-wing corner to the unguarded far post where Romario toe-poked the ball into the bottom of the net. Yet 1-0 at half-time was not really a fair reward.

Eight minutes into the second half Brazil increased their lead from the first penalty of the finals, gained when Romario turned sharply into the penalty box and was tripped by Temavski. Rai sent Kharin the wrong way with his spot-kick and, after that, it was just a question of Brazil against Kharin, who deserved particular credit with two sharp late saves from Bebeto.

For Brazil, it was the perfect start as they played themselves into the tournament and promised plenty more entertainment to come. For Russia, the match said everything about disastrously mishandled preparations. They played without wit, zest, or enthusiasm.

In defence and midfield they went through the man-for-man marking strategy typical of the old Soviet Union sides. But the Soviets who, for example, finished runners-up in the 1988 European Championship used disciplined defence as a foundation for a specific counter-attacking style.

Not these Russians. They looked like Moscow Spartak reserves on a bad night. Coach Pavel Sadyrin said afterwards that he would stick with this strategy — leaving observers to conclude that the rebels might well have had a point.

JUNE 24 = PALO ALTO

**BRAZIL 3 — CAMEROON 0**

*Romario 38*
*Marcio Santos 64*
*Bebeto 72*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Taffarel | 1 | Bell |
| Jorginho | 2 | Tataw |
| Aldair | 3 | Song |
| Marcio Santos | 4 | Kalla |
| Leonardo | 5 | Agbo |
| Rai | 6 | Libih |
| Dunga | 7 | Mfede |
| Mauro Silva | 8 | Mbouh |
| Zinho | 9 | Foe |
| Bebeto | 10 | Omam-Biyik |
| Romario | 11 | Embe |
| Carlos Parreira | *Coach* | Henri Michel |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 83,401. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex)

***Substitutions:*** Paulo Sergio for Zinho (74mins), Muller for Rai (80mins), Maboang for Mfede (70mins), Milla for Embe (63mins).

***Sent off:*** Song (63mins).

***Booked:*** Mauro Silva (Brazil), Tataw & Kalla (Cameroon).

## SONG STRIKES A SAD NOTE

**BRAZIL became the first team to secure a second-round place when they took Cameroon apart in a manner which fully justified all the positive things written and spoken about them after the initial victory over Russia.**

Cameroon quickly made it clear they were not going to be overawed by the three-times winners and Tataw was booked in the seventh minute of a lively first half.

The Brazilians always looked the more dangerous, of course, and gained their due reward in the 38th minute when Mauro Silva split the Cameroon defence with a beautiful through pass and Romario raced on to slip the ball beyond Bell and into the net.

Brazil's increasing control was emphasised in the early minutes of the second half when they put raiders in to great effect on both right and left flanks.

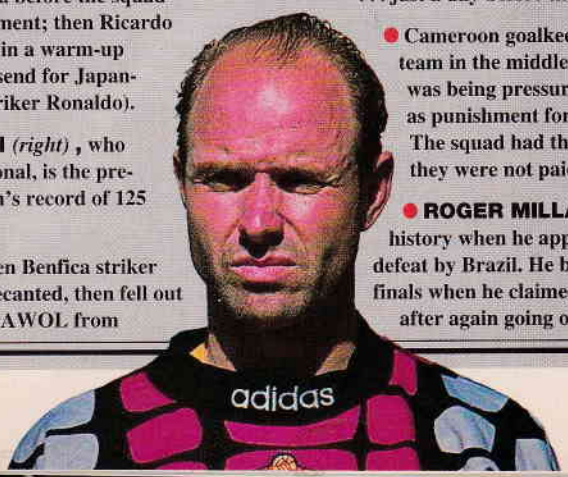
Marcio Santos headed narrowly over the top from a corner and Cameroon defender Song was sent off for a desperate late tackle on Bebeto out on the right. Song, 17, thus became the youngest player ever sent off in the World Cup finals.

While Cameroon were reorganising their defence, Brazil capitalised on the moment when Marcio Santos headed in the cross which followed the due free-kick.

Cameroon produced Roger Milla as substitute but this time there were to be no super-sub heroics from the 1990 talisman.

Instead, Brazil just kept rolling on. Romario pulled a shot wide of an open goal in the 68th minute but, when Bell saved at his feet four minutes later, the ball ran loose to the right and Bebeto slotted home the third from the finest of angles.

- **BRAZIL** had to replace two centre-backs before the tournament. Carlos Mozer was returned to Benfica before the squad deadline because of concern over a liver ailment; then Ricardo Gomes of Paris Saint Germain was injured in a warm-up match. Special permission was obtained to send for Japan-based Ronaldao (not to be confused with striker Ronaldo).
- Sweden goalkeeper **THOMAS RAVELLI** *(right)*, who played against Brazil in his 114th international, is the pre-eminent candidate to overtake Peter Shilton's record of 125 caps.
- Russia's internal problems deepened when Benfica striker **SERGEI YURAN,** one of the rebels who recanted, then fell out again with coach Pavel Sadyrin after going AWOL from training. The Russian Federation sent Yuran home as punishment . . . just a day before the rest of the party had to pack their bags.
- Cameroon goalkeeper **JOSEPH-ANTOINE BELL** quit the team in the middle of the finals because coach Henri Michel was being pressured by senior political figures to drop him as punishment for going public on the Cameroon pay revolt. The squad had threatened to boycott the Brazil game if they were not paid their qualification bonuses in cash.
- **ROGER MILLA** became the oldest player in World Cup history when he appeared as a substitute, aged 42, in the 3-0 defeat by Brazil. He became the oldest player to score in the finals when he claimed Cameroon's consolation against Russia, after again going on as a sub.



# group b

JUNE 24 = PONTIAC

## SWEDEN 3 — RUSSIA 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Brolin 38 (pen), Dahlin 59, 81* | | *Salenko 3 (pen)* |
| Ravelli | 1 | Kharin |
| R Nilsson | 2 | Gorlukovich |
| P Andersson | 3 | Nikiforov |
| Bjorklund | 4 | Khlestov |
| Ljung | 5 | Kuznetsov |
| Ingesson | 6 | Popov |
| Schwarz | 7 | Borodiuk |
| Brolin | 8 | Mostovoi |
| Thern | 9 | Onopko |
| Dahlin | 10 | Salenko |
| K Andersson | 11 | Radchenko |
| Tommy Svensson | *Coach* | Pavel Sadyrin |

**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 71,528. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra).

***Substitutions:*** Erlingmark for Bjorklund (88mins), Larsson for K Andersson (84mins), Karpin for Popov (40mins), Galiamin for Borodiuk (51mins).

***Sent off:*** Gorlukovich (49mins).

***Booked:*** K Andersson, Schwarz & Dahlin (Sweden), Kharin (Russia).

## DAHLIN DECIDES AT THE DOUBLE

**SWEDEN and two-goal Martin Dahlin rolled back a feeble revival attempt by Russia with a performance of disciplined aggression such as their fans have seen all too rarely.**

Russia got off to an ideal start when Salenko shot home a penalty after Ljung pulled back Borodiuk going into the box. But Sweden refused to let their heads drop. Dahlin smacked one shot against the bar, Thern drew a fine save from Kharin (who was subsequebtly booked for time-wasting) and then Sweden equalised with a penalty of their own. Brolin beat Kharin from the spot after Dahlin had been pulled back by Gorlukovich.

Two minutes into the second half Russia should have regained both the lead and the initiative. The Swedes allowed themselves to be distracted by a wrist injury which had forced Ljung off the pitch. In the meantime, Radchenko slipped through the defensive gap left by Ljung's absence and slipped a shot wide across the face of the goal.

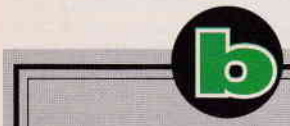
Two more minutes — now the 49th — and Russia fell a man behind when Gorlukovich, having been booked for deliberate hands in the first minute, was sent off for an off-the-ball foul on Dahlin.

As the physical temperature kept on rising in the Silverdome, so Sweden had both Schwarz booked for reckless kicking (he caught Karpin in the face) and Dahlin booked for going in on Khlestov with all studs showing. It was an awful challenge by Dahlin. He was a little fortunate not to be sent off but, in any case, this was his second yellow card in two games and he was thus condemned to suspension from Sweden's following match against Brazil.

Not that Dahlin allowed this to distract him from the task in hand. He scored the two goals which sealed Sweden's control and victory, goals which were superb demonstrations of traditional northern European attacking football.

In the 59th minute, Dahlin produced a spectacular diving header at the near post to deflect a left-wing cross from Thern into the bottom corner of the net. In the 81st, he placed a header into the top corner after Kennet Andersson crossed at speed from the right.

Dahlin boy . . . Martin scores his first goal for Sweden against Russia.



- The Brazil coach, **CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA,** is expected to take over Spanish club Valencia after a brief holiday.
- The Cameroon State **PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA** cancelled all public appearances for a week after the 6-1 thrashing by Russia.
- **OLEG SALENKO** *(below)* became the only player to score five goals in one match in the final stages of a World Cup, in Russia's 6-1 win over Cameroon.

### GROUP B – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B1** Brazil | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| **B2** Sweden | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| B3 Russia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| B4 Cameroon | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 1 |

**LEADING SCORERS:** *6* Salenko (Russia). *3* Dahlin (Sweden), Romario (Brazil).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 472,080.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 78,680.

JUNE 28 = PALO ALTO

## RUSSIA 6 — CAMEROON 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Salenko 16, 41, 45, 73, 75, Radchenko 82* | | *Milla 47* |
| Cherchesov | 1 | Songo'o |
| Tetradze | 2 | Tataw |
| Nikiforov | 3 | Kalla |
| Ternavski | 4 | Ndip |
| Karpin | 5 | Agbo |
| Tsimbalar | 6 | Libih |
| Lediakhov | 7 | Kana Biyik |
| Khlestov | 8 | Mfede |
| Onopko | 9 | Foe |
| Salenko | 10 | Embe |
| Korneyev | 11 | Omam-Biyik |
| Pavel Sadyrin | *Coach* | Henri Michel |

**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 74,914. **Ref:** Al Sharif (Syr)

***Substitutions:*** Beschastnikh for Lediakhov (77mins), Radchenko for Korneyev (64mins), Milla for Mfede (46mins), Tchami for Embe (47mins).

***Booked:*** Karpin, Khlestov & Nikiforov (Russia), Kana Biyik & Songo'o (Cameroon).

## OLEG SHOOTS TO A RECORD

**OLEG SALENKO scored a record five goals as Russia crushed hopeless, hapless Cameroon 6-1 and revived slim hopes of qualifying for the second round.**

Salenko struck in the 16th, 41st, 45th, 73rd and 75th minutes, thus beoming the first player ever to score five goals in one match in the World Cup finals. Dimitri Radchenko added a later sixth.

Even a goal by Milla with his first touch as a second-half substitute was not enough to inspire Cameroon's Indomitable Lions and keep them alive. With only one point after a draw against Sweden and a defeat by Brazil, the poor darlings of 1990 were eliminated.

Salenko, who plays for Spanish club Logrones, thus jumped — in one match — to become temporary leading scorer at USA '94 with six goals after the penalty he converted in Russia's earlier 3-1 defeat by Sweden.

His first came when the ball ran kindly to him after a challenge on team-mate Karpin and he slipped his shot under Cameroon goalkeeper Songo'o.

In the 41st minute, he walked the ball into the net when Russia took a free-kick quickly as the Africans argued with the referee. He completed a first-half hat-trick from the penalty spot with 45 minutes on the clock.

Cameroon coach Henri Michel played his final card by sending Milla on after the interval. He promptly scored in the 47th minute, but any hopes of a Cameroon comeback were dashed when Salenko added his fourth from the edge of the area. His fifth arrived when he chipped the ball over the totally demoralised Songo'o. Substitute Radchenko completed the rout in the 82nd minute.

Coach Pavel Sadyrin said: "Salenko is a very talented player. He proved that by scoring 16 goals in Spain last season. Unfortunately, he did not do himself justice in our first games. Now we hope he has got into his stride."

Salenko, who might not have played if Yuran had not fallen out (again!) with Sadyrin, said: "I scored a hat-trick once for Kiev Dynamo in the Soviet Cup Final in 1990. But that doesn't compare. This has to be my greatest achievement. But please don't call me Superman. To be a superman, we have to to win the World Cup."

Nine players had scored four goals in a match in the World Cup finals: Gustav Wetterstrom (Sweden v Cuba, 1938), Leonidas da Silva (Brazil v Poland, 1938), Ernst Willimowski (Poland v Brazil, 1938), Ademir de Menezes (Brazil v Sweden, 1950), Juan Schiaffino (Uruguay v Bolivia, 1950), Sandor Kocsis (Hungary v West Germany, 1954), Just Fontaine (France v West Germany, 1958), Eusebio (Portugal v North Korea, 1966), Emilio Butragueno (Spain v Denmark, 1986).

# A DRAW WILL DO NICELY, THANKS

**NO TEAMS had met as often in the World Cup finals as Brazil and Sweden. Of their previous five matches, Brazil had won four with the other drawn and they went into this game as favourites to make it five out of six.**

**Instead Sweden scored first, teased the three-times former world champions and were able to settle back comfortably in the second half to agree on the draw which suited both teams.**

**Brazil duly finished top of the group and went back to Palo Alto, while the Swedes looked forward to the humidity of Orlando.**

JUNE 28 = PONTIAC

**BRAZIL 1 — SWEDEN 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Romario 47* | | *K Andersson 21* |
| Taffarel | 1 | Ravelli |
| Jorginho | 2 | R Nilsson |
| Aldair | 3 | P Andersson |
| Marcio Santos | 4 | Kamark |
| Leonardo | 5 | Ljung |
| Rai | 6 | H Larsson |
| Dunga | 7 | Thern |
| Mauro Silva | 8 | Schwarz |
| Zinho | 9 | Ingesson |
| Bebeto | 10 | Brolin |
| Romario | 11 | K Andersson |
| Carlos Parreira | *Coach* | Tommy Svensson |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 77,217. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)

***Substitutions:*** Paulo Sergio for Rai (86mins), Mazinho for Mauro Silva (46mins), Blomqvist for H Larsson (62mins), Mild for Schwarz (75mins).

***Booked:*** Aldair (Brazil), Mild (Sweden).

**Both teams had to weigh up the disciplinary connotations of their match selections. Brazil had Mauro Silva on one yellow card; another would rule him out of the second round but he started the game, anyway. They also had defender Ricardo Rocha doubtful but decided not to risk him. Aldair continued in the centre of defence.**

**As for the Swedes, they were without the suspended three-goal top scorer Dahlin and pushed Kennet Andersson up as his replacement at the apex of attack. Both Andersson and Schwarz were on one yellow card apiece.**

**The one question against Brazil was that, although they had won both their previous matches, they had not been tested or had their temperament put under pressure. Sweden were about to do that. In the 11th minute the Swedes created a sharp chance when Ljung advanced from defence, took a quick return pass and fired over the bar from an angle.**

**Another 10 minutes and Sweden were in front. Brolin, playing further forward than usual, chipped into space and the stand-in centre-forward Kennet Andersson lobbed the ball inside Taffarel's left-hand post.**

Battling . . . Mauro Silva (5) and Brolin.

**This was the first time anyone had dared attack Brazil wide and they found the experience disturbing. The four-man block of Aldair, Marcio Santos, Mauro Silva and Dunga, were being bypassed as the Swedes sought channels through the old inside-forward positions.**

**Both teams played flat back-fours and pushed forward which meant a lot of congestion in midfield. When Sweden were forced on to the retreat they went back only as far as the edge of their penalty box, thus forcing Brazil to try their shooting luck mostly from 25 yards out. Neither Dunga, Rai nor Romario seriously troubled Ravelli in the Swedish goal.**

**Indeed, a minute before half-time Sweden might have snatched a second but Patrik Andersson mistimed his effort and shot wide from a Brolin corner.**

**Both teams learned at half-time that Russia had established a clear advantage against Cameroon in the other, simultaneous, group match. The Swedes looked as if they were still considering the implications when Romario scored a superb goal — from a similar position to Kennet Andersson but under more pressure — to equalise. And that, to all effects and purposes, was that.**

**Both teams continued to test the opposition defence but they also took care not to throw too many men forward in support and there were clear signs of thinking ahead in the way coach Carlos Alberto Parreira took Mauro Silva and Sweden's Tommy Svensson took Schwarz out of the game to wipe their slates clean of those threatening yellow cards.**

**Carlos Alberto said: "It was almost like a friendly match. It was a matter of who finished first and who finished second in the group and no more than that. When you come to a game when all you need is a draw and you are on a small pitch, then you don't create many chances.**

**"We wanted to win the match but after Sweden scored early on we had to be more cautious. Sweden are the most physical and best organised team we have played. They wanted a draw and that's precisely what they got."**

**Svensson said: "I was very proud of my players. The first half was brilliant, technically. We could have scored more goals on the counter-attack."**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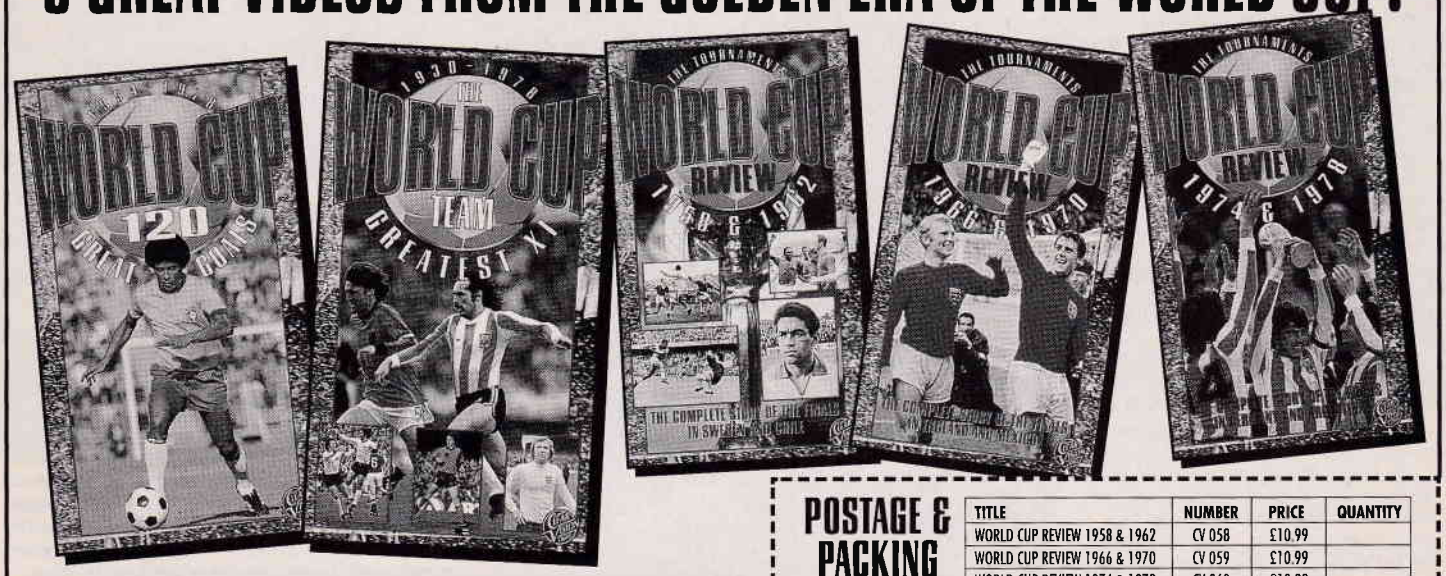


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# European know

JUNE 17 = SOLDIER FIELD, CHICAGO

**GERMANY 1 — BOLIVIA 0**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Klinsmann 61* | | |
| Illgner | 1 | Trucco |
| Kohler | 2 | Sandy |
| Matthaus | 3 | Rimba |
| Berthold | 4 | Quinteros |
| Hassler | 5 | Cristaldo |
| Effenberg | 6 | Borja |
| Sammer | 7 | Melgar |
| Moller | 8 | Soria |
| Brehme | 9 | Baldivieso |
| Klinsmann | 10 | Sanchez |
| Riedle | 11 | Ramallo |
| Berti Vogts | Coach | Xavier Azkargorta |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 63,117. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex)

***Substitutions:*** Basler for Riedle (59mins), Strunz for Hassler (82), Moreno for Baldievieso (65mins), Etcheverry for Ramallo (78mins)

***Booked:*** Kohler & Moller (Germany), Soria, Borja, Baldivieso & Quinteros (Bolivia).

***Sent off:*** Etcheverry (Bolivia) 82mins.

## PRESIDENT SEES HISTORY MADE

**THIS WAS the day when the American World Cup finally felt like the World Cup for the first time.**

Instead of willing if bemused officials and event staff, the place was suddenly swollen by fans — real fans, supporters of Germany and Bolivia and a few other teams, all there to cheer the football.

President Bill Clinton was there too. On the previous evening he joined local Democratic Party workers at a Victory In Illinois dinner, which Germany's World Cup holders would match in their own way after a minor piece of World Cup history.

No defending title-holder had won the Opening Match since they, rather than the host nation, were handed the dubious honour of setting the finals under way back in 1974. That year Brazil were held 0-0 by Yugoslavia; in 1978 West Germany drew 0-0 with Poland; in 1982 Argentina lost 1-0 to Belgium; in 1986 Italy drew 1-1 with Bulgaria; and in 1990 Argentina lost 1-0 to Cameroon.

On that day Cameroon had two players sent off and still won but there was no such luck for plucky, skilful Bolivia.

This was a day for title-holders — ending with victory for Germany, having started with the formal opening of the finals by Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, and President Clinton.

Both made necessarily brief speeches of welcome and well-wishing which fitted neatly into a tidy slot during a half-hour spectacle of colour, banners, costumes and pop music.

The American insistence that the event could not be An Event without "stars" was answered by the presence as introducer of the chat-show hostess, Oprah Winfrey (who fell flat on her face leaving the stage), and the musical gyrations of Diana Ross (whose dance demanded that she shoot a football into an empty net; she missed from about two yards).

A capacity 63,000 crowd packed Chicago's old Soldier Field in the sunshine and appeared to enjoy the occasion as much as the football. It was no great match, though better than most Opening Games. Germany could have had three or four goals if their finishing — Riedle's in particular — had not been so wayward in the first half. The Bolivians might have had one or two, thanks mainly to determined foraging by Sanchez.

Clearly, as the Germans admitted later, awareness of the red card dangers of indulging in anything resembling a tackle from behind kept the physical tension of the match down. But coach Berti Vogts was increasingly frustrated with an absence of blood and thunder from his men as time went on without any sign of a breakthrough.

Hassler failed to capitalise on a couple of free-kicks in his favourite inside left position and the Germans reorganised so lethargically when Trucco saved one of Hassler's attempts that the Bolivians broke away dangerously and might well have scored if the impressive raiding left-back Cristaldo had had a little more luck. But luck was not on Bolivia's side — as they were about to realise. Three minutes after Cristaldo's failed break. Germany went ahead.

Matthaus began the move, picking out Hassler who had just switched from right to left after substitute Basler's appearance in place of Riedle. The ball struck Hassler, and fell into the path of the unmarked Klinsmann. He was all alone, with time and space to stride forward and slide his shot beyond the badly-placed Trucco into an empty net.

Vogts was content rather than ecstatic. He said: "I'm pleased that we were able to get three points against a tough opponent.

"It was not a spectacular game and perhaps the spectators were disappointed. But soccer is a tactical game, we knew the longer it stayed 0-0 the more difficult it was going to become."

**Match-winner . . . German striker Jurgen Klinsmann.**

JUNE 21 = CHICAGO

**GERMANY 1 — SPAIN 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Klinsmann 48* | | *Goikoetxea 14* |
| Illgner | 1 | Zubizarreta |
| Kohler | 2 | Alkorta |
| Matthaus | 3 | Hierro |
| Berthold | 4 | Abelardo |
| Hassler | 5 | Goikoetxea |
| Strunz | 6 | Ferrer |
| Sammer | 7 | Guardiola |
| Moller | 8 | Caminero |
| Effenberg | 9 | Luis Enrique |
| Brehme | 10 | Sergi |
| Klinsmann | 11 | Salinas |
| Berti Vogts | Coach | Javier Clemente |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 63,113. **Ref:** Cavani (Uru).

***Substitutions:*** Voller for Moller (61mins), Bakero for Goikoetxea (63mins), Camarasa for Guardiola (76mins).

***Booked:*** Effenberg (Germany), Salinas, Abelardo & Hierro (Spain).

## FIVE-MAN STYLE FAILS TO SHINE

**GERMANY virtually booked their place in the second round though they remained, as yet, far from their best. Spain dominated the opening minutes and took a surprise, if deserved, lead. Germany struggled back to snatch an equaliser shortly after half-time and both teams might then have won. Overall, however, it was a scrappy sort of game with neither team ever exuding full confidence over the task in hand.**

Germany decided, surprisingly, to use only Klinsmann as a full-time striker, supported by Moller. Spain also played with only one striker, Julio Salinas, but that was predictable; their changes were made in midfield and defence where Guardiola stepped in so that Hierro could move back and fill the gap at sweeper left by Nadal's suspension.

In general terms, the Spanish changes worked better. The Germans like to play up to a double strike force with the midfielders each given individual room within the team

# -how decisive

JUNE 17 = COTTON BOWL, DALLAS

**SPAIN 2 — SOUTH KOREA 2**

| Spain | | South Korea |
|---|---|---|
| *Salinas 51, Goikoetxea 56* | | *Hong Myung-bo 85, Seo Jung-won 89* |
| Canizares | 1 | Choi In-young |
| Ferrer | 2 | Kim Pan-keun |
| Alkorta | 3 | Park Jung-bae |
| Abelardo | 4 | Lee Young-jin |
| Caminero | 5 | Shin Hong-gi |
| Goikoetxea | 6 | Noh Jung-yoon |
| Nadal | 7 | Kim Joo-sung |
| Hierro | 8 | Ko Jeong-woon |
| Sergi | 9 | Choi Young-il |
| Salinas | 10 | Hwang Sun-hong |
| Luis Enrique | 11 | Hong Myung-bo |
| Javier Clemente | Coach | Kim Ho |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 56,247. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)

***Substitutions:*** Guerrero for Caminero (46mins), Felipe for Salinas (62mins), Ha Seok-ju for Noh Jung-yoon (72mins), Seo Jung-won for Kim Joo-sung (58mins).

***Booked:*** Luis Enrique, Caminero (Spain), Kim Joo-sung, Choi Young-il (South Korea).

***Sent off:*** Nadal (Spain) 25mins.

## LATE SURGE STOPS SPANISH

**SOUTH KOREA earned a presidential ovation after scoring two dramatic goals in the last six minutes to draw with Spain.**

President Kim Young-sam, an avid soccer fan, was one of the first to congratulate the team after television transmission of the match had emptied the streets of Seoul. President Kim said: "When Spain got their two goals I thought it was over. But the last two goals were, simply, fantastic."

Substitute Seo Jung-won was the Korean hero with the 90th-minute equaliser. Five minutes earlier sweeper Hong Myung-bo had reduced the deficit when his free-kick was deflected off the wall past goalkeeper Canizares.

Despite having Nadal sent off midway through the first half for pulling down Ko Jong-woon, Spain had snatched a 2-0 lead early in the second half. Both were created by the Athletic Bilbao youngster Guerrero, who had arrived as a substitute at half-time. First he gave Goikoextea the opportunity to send in his Barcelona team-mate Salinas. Then he provided the pass from which Goikoetxea grabbed the second.

That was hard on the Koreans, who had started brightly and had the better of a first half that was wide open, despite heat measured at pitch level as 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius). Indeed, had it not been for two exellent saves by Canizares from Hong Myung-bo and Hwang Sun-hong, Spain would have been trailing at half-time.

They looked a better side after the break, but paid a heavy price for both relaxing and for the fatigue factor induced by Nadal's expulsion and the five-minute absence of the injured Hierro.

Korean coach Kim Ho said: "This was a very important match for Korea both as a country and then as a football team. But the weather conditions always gave us a chance to come back from 2-0 down. We paced ourselves better over the 90 minutes."

Spanish manager Javier Clemente said: "At 2-0 we were comfortable but the heat cost us victory. Playing with 10 men is always hard but this heat makes it that much tougher. Then, in the last 15 minutes you could almost see the strength draining out of the team."

**All square above . . . Seo Jung-won equalises for South Korea against Spain.**
**All square on the left . . . Kohler (4) and Julio Salinas.**

plan. Playing with five midfielders meant players were falling over each other, confusing each other and casting away possession in all directions. Also, of course, they gave Klinsmann little serious support and it was not until Voller was introduced in place of Moller midway through the second half that Klinsmann began to move with real menace.

Spain, by contrast, used their midfield players to support Salinas in a far more effective manner — starting in the ninth minute when Sergi broke in on the Spanish left and forced Illgner to flap the ball, one-handed, for a corner. Five minutes later Spain attacked down the other flank and this time Illgner blundered. Goikotxea floated in a far-post cross which Illgner allowed to creep inside his right-hand post and hand Spain the gift of the lead.

Once in front against opponents who always hold a psychological edge over them, Spain relaxed. Germany, of course, started to struggle back into the match with Moller trying his awkward best to play as striker. First he sent a diving header wide, then he broke through only to see Zubizarreta — restored to Spain's goal after suspension — dive at his feet to save. Strunz broke through from the back on the right but was denied a penalty after appearing to be tripped before Effenberg headed over from a free-kick knocked on by Klinsmann.

Just on half-time Moller volleyed narrowly over the bar. Spain did not heed the warning and were caught out three minutes into the second half. Sammer was fouled out on the right, Hassler curled in the free-kick and Klinsmann headed it down past Zubizarreta's left hand with such force it bounced up head high on its way in.

Spain, after wasting an even greater lead against the South Koreans, might have been forgiven for letting their heads drop. But they immediately threw themselves back into pursuit of a goal and went — literally — within inches when Guardiola swung a free-kick to the far post and Hierro stabbed it back between Illgner's legs. The ball skidded across the face of the open goal without a Spaniard in sight.

Germany reacted by going back to tactical basics. Voller appeared, Moller departed; a striker for a midfielder and immediately Germany looked happier. With his very first touch Voller offered an opening only for Klinsmann for shoot over the top. At the other end Spain squirted out a last meaningful raid. Hierro had a free-kick parried by the diving Illgner, then Caminero slipped through but missed his kick twice in rapid-fire succession as he closed in on Illgner.

As the match drifted away one had the distinct feeling that both teams were happy with the draw. It virtually ensured Germany their place in the second round and offered Spain the chance to join them by accomplishing the apparently not insurmountable task of defeating Bolivia on their next visit to Soldier Field.

Spanish coach Clemente said: "We played well in what was a hard games for both sides. Obviously we missed one of our best players but I was generally satisfied. We certainly played better than we did against Korea." German coach Vogts said: "We can live with a draw. Clearly we can play much better than that but nobody ever won the World Cup by starting at full pace and top form. We still have plenty of work ahead of us."

● Midfielder **STEFAN EFFENBERG** *(left)* was substituted and then kicked out of the German squad after making a rude gesture at critical fans during the 3-2 win over South Korea in Dallas. Coach **BERTI VOGTS** said he would certainly not consider selecting him again "before 2006."

● Spain captain **MIGUEL ANGEL NADAL** became, against South Korea, the first player sent off at the World Cup under the "professional foul" disciplinary interpretation.

● Bolivia's **JULIO BALDIVIESO** and **MIGUEL RIMBA** were slightly hurt when their car crashed on the way to the airport at Boston for their flight home. A female member of the World Cup staff escorting them was thrown from the car and died later in hospital.

● Bolivia's **MARCO ETCHEVERRY** *(right)* became the first player ever sent off in an Opening Match when he was dismissed by Mexican referee **ARTURO BRIZIO** four minutes after going on as a second-half substitute against Germany. Etcheverry, nicknamed The Devil, was making his first competitive appearance since being injured in a Chilean League match last November.

### GROUP C – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **C1** Germany | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| **C2** Spain | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| C3 South Korea | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| C4 Bolivia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

**LEADING SCORERS:** *4* Klinsmann (Germany). *2* Goikoetxea (Spain), Hong Myung-bo (South Korea), Caminero (Spain).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 363,020.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 60,503.

# group c

Two to one against . . . Effenberg (20) and Buchwald against Ko Jeong-woon.

JUNE 23 = FOXBORO

## SOUTH KOREA 0 BOLIVIA 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Choi In-young | 1 | Trucco |
| Kim Pan-keun | 2 | Sandy |
| Park Jung-bae | 3 | Rimba |
| Shin Hong-gi | 4 | Quinteros |
| Hong Myung-bo | 5 | Cristaldo |
| Lee Young-jin | 6 | Borja |
| Kim Joo-sung | 7 | Melgar |
| Seo Jung-won | 8 | Soria |
| Ko Jeong-woon | 9 | Baldivieso |
| Noh Jung-yoon | 10 | Sanchez |
| Hwang Sun-hong | 11 | Ramallo |
| Kim Ho | Coach | Xavier Azkargorta |

**Att:** 53.456. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco).

***Substitutions:*** Ha Seok-ju for Seo Jung-won (65mins), Choi Young-il for Noh Jung-yoon (71mins), G Pena for Ramallo (62mins).

***Sent off:*** Cristaldo (83mins).

***Booked:*** Ko Jeong-woon, Shin Hong-gi & Park Jung-bae (South Korea), Rimba & Baldivieso (Bolivia).

## BOLIVIA'S CHANCE SLIDES AWAY

**A CAPACITY 53,000 crowd at Foxboro Stadium in Boston saw Bolivia and South Korea produce the first goalless draw of the World Cup finals. The match produced plenty of end-to-end action but the finishing was mostly hurried and poor.**

The Bolivians were forced to play with 10 men for the final seven minutes of the Group C match after left-back Luis Cristaldo was sent off. Bolivia, though barely managing to cope with the swift Koreans' astonishing speed, went close in the first half when a superb free-kick by Sanchez forced a diving save by Choi In-young. South Korea squandered several chances with poor finishing, not least Hwang Sun-hong, who shot over from close in.

The pattern of near misses continued in the second half, in which Cristaldo was sent off seven minutes from the finish for bringing down Kim Pan-keun. Later coach Xavier Azkargorta said he ws not happy with the decision but the Bolivians would not be appealing.

JUNE 27 = DALLAS

## GERMANY 3 SOUTH KOREA 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Klinsmann 11, 35, Riedle 18* | | *Hwang Sun-hong 52 Hong Myung-bo 63* |
| Illgner | 1 | Choi In-young |
| Kohler | 2 | Choi Young-il |
| Matthaus | 3 | Hong Myung-bo |
| Berthold | 4 | Park Jung-bae |
| Effenberg | 5 | Shin Hong-gi |
| Sammer | 6 | Kim Pan-keun |
| Buchwald | 7 | Lee Young-jin |
| Brehme | 8 | Ko Jeong-woon |
| Hassler | 9 | Kim Joo-sung |
| Klinsmann | 10 | Cho Jin-ho |
| Riedle | 11 | Hwang Sun-hong |
| Berti Vogts | Coach | Kim Ho |

**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 63,998. **Ref:** J. Quiniou (Fra).

***Substitutions:*** Moller for Matthaus (63mins), Helmer for Effenberg (74mins), Lee Won-jae for Choi In-young (46mins), Chung Jong-son for Lee Young-jin (39mins), Seo Jung-won for Cho Jin-ho (46mins).

## GERMANY GIVEN A GIANT FRIGHT

**GERMANY were given the fright of their Cotton Bowl lives as Korea picked up the match in the second half and went within inches of a 3-3 draw which the World Cup-holders were, ultimately, fortunate to deny them.**

While the Koreans went home, despite finishing third in the group, they had worked wonders for the image of Asian football. Their previous World Cup appearances in the last decade had been negative and unambitous, both in Mexico in 1986 and then in Italy in 1990. Their presence at USA '94 will be remembered with a shiver by fans of both Spain and Germany.

First the Koreans hit back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 in the last few minutes against Spain. Then, after the goalless draw against Bolivia, they very nearly turned around their clash with Germany in similar manner. Unfortunately, the blundering first-half performance of goalkeeper Choi In-young left them with too much to do. He was substituted at half-time but that was too late.

Germany, with pressure building up in the media and among their fans, plus tension in the team camp, omitted Moller from the starting line-up, recalled Riedle and brought Buchwald into midfield for his first appearance of these finals. He had missed the earlier games because of a muscle strain.

They began in determined mood. Hassler, who had been among those players threatened with being dropped, played much further forward up the right wing than against Bolivia and Spain and looked a great deal more dangerous for it.

After only 11 minutes Hassler ran down the right and crossed to the near post where Klinsmann, dancing and pirouetting, flicked the ball up with his right foot, turned and volleyed it home with his left.

Seven more minutes and Germany had scored again. Klinsmann forced a throw-in out on the right and Buchwald hooked the loose ball hopefully into the penalty box. The Koreans were late sensing the danger as the ball bounced against the far post before Riedle popped it into the net.

To the Germans' obvious surprise, the Koreans did not lie down and give up. Quite the reverse. Kim Joo-sung — who got better the longer the game went on — had a shot tipped over by Illgner then Kim Pan-keun played a superbly-timed through ball only for Cho Jin-ho to run on and shoot wastefully wide.

Klinsmann was in the thick of the action. He collected a yellow card for playing on and shooting the ball into the net after the offside whistle had gone, then scored Germany's third goal for real in the 35th minute. Riedle was the creator with a cross from the right and though Klinsmann did not strike the ball properly, the fumbling Choi allowed it into the net.

The Germans collected further yellow cards for Brehme and Effenberg before half-time when they all appeared to have agreed that the match was over and they should put their feet up in the second half.

Arrogance had its due reward when Korea pulled one goal back within six minutes. Park Jung-bae played another of those slide-rule through passes and Hwang Sun-hong delicately flicked the ball over Illgner.

As the Germans wilted so the Koreans gained new energy, as if running on solar power, and Hong Myung-bo thrashed a second goal — and a superb one — from 30 yards out.

The Germans, suddenly starting to panic, substituted the injured Matthaus with Moller and pulled Sammer back to sweeper. It was not a switch which appeared to bring any new cohesion to the defence as the Koreans, gaining in confidence with every minute, sliced at the German defence. They really did play some superb football, with textbook examples of how to get around the back of even the most disciplined defence.

Only one thing was missing: the equalising goal. Illgner more than made amends for his blunder against Spain with acrobatic saves from Hwang Sun-hong and from Choi Young-il — tipping their shots over the bar and then wide as he kept his fractured, shell-shocked side in the game. In the closing minutes the Koreans had forced the Germans to pull 10 men back into defence.

At the end, players embraced in gracious acknowledgement of each others' achievement. For the Germans the prize, however erratically attained, was a place as group winners. For the Koreans the prize was a trip home with great honour.

JUNE 27 = CHICAGO

## BOLIVIA 1 SPAIN 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Sanchez 67* | | *Guardiola 19 (pen), Caminero 66, 71* |
| Trucco | 1 | Zubizarreta |
| Sandy | 2 | Ferrer |
| Rimba | 3 | Voro |
| Pena | 4 | Abelardo |
| Ramos | 5 | Goikoetxea |
| Borja | 6 | Caminero |
| Soruco | 7 | Guardiola |
| Melgar | 8 | Felipe |
| Soria | 9 | Sergi |
| Ramallo | 10 | Salinas |
| Sanchez | 11 | Guerrero |
| Xavier Azkargorta | Coach | Javier Clemente |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 63,089. **Ref:** Badilla (CR)

***Substitutions:*** Moreno for Ramos (46mins), Castillo for Soria (61mins), Bakero for Guardiola (67mins), Hierro for Felipe (46mins).

***Booked:*** Ferrer & Caminero (Spain).

## A FOUL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**SPAIN went through to the last 16 while Bolivia went home with the consolation of their first-ever goal in the finals — and they deserved to have scored more in a thrilling second half.**

But Spain, who had drawn twice before this match, held off the late pressure and two brilliant goals by Jose Luis Caminero ensured their progress.

The only score in the first half came through a disputed penalty. Veteran midfielder Borja was judged to have pushed Felipe in the area in the 19th minute. As the Bolivians protested bitterly, Guardiola blasted the ball straight into the middle of the net and past Trucco, who dived to his right.

Earlier Spain had survived a scare when Ramallo hit the bar from long range, with Zubizarreta well beaten. After half-time Spain looked content to sit back on their lead in the knowledge that Germany were winning and that a point would do.

The game came alive midway through the half with three goals in six minutes. The best move of the match, including a neat back-heel, enabled Sergi to cut into the Bolivian area and pass to Caminero who shot under Trucco's dive.

Almost straight from the kick-off, Sanchez unleashed a 25-yard shot which took a deflection off a Spanish defender and looped over Zubizarreta. But Caminero was on target again in the 71st minute to put Spain 3-1 in front.

# group d

## DIEGO COMES STRUTTING BACK

**ARGENTINA looked surprisingly good, all things considered, as they crushed Greece with a first hat-trick of the finals, from Gabriel Batistuta, and a further, classically struck goal from skipper Diego Maradona.**

**Greece were outplayed in every facet of the game — starting with goal where Minou was badly at fault in the second minute as a hopeful low drive from Batistuta slipped between his legs and over the line.**

**Suddenly all Greece's planning — holding on tightly until Argentina were destroyed by their own inner tension — went out of the window.**

**They were not good enough in defence to defy the former world champions and they were not good enough in attack to threaten them. In short, they were not good enough to give Argentina a game and test the credibility of Alfio Basile's reworked team.**

**Goals could have come almost at will at one stage.**

**In the 12th minute Chamot advanced from left-back, broke past Apostolakis but fired his angled shot just wide into the side net. There was no doubting Argentina's control, reflected as much in the fluent midfield distribution of Redondo as in the steadily growing foul count being run up by Tsaluhidis on Maradona. Eventually, inevitably, like so many players before him, Tsaluhidis was shown the yellow card.**

**That Maradona merited such attention could not be denied. He was his old strutting self, with perhaps not quite so much quicksilver in his boots but more than enough to deal with Greece, who went 2-0 down just on half-time when Batistuta fired a second goal after Chamot dashed in through the open door at the front of the Greek defence.**

**Fourteen minutes into the second half Maradona struck with all the skill and venom of old. Redondo laid off the ball on the edge of the penalty box, Caniggia made a dummy run and Maradona, feinting one way to make space, then turned back the other, took a step and a half and faded a half-volley up into the near top corner.**

**Vintage Diego.**

**The contest was all over. Caniggia had thoroughly enjoyed his return to the grand stage, giving no sign of his lingering toe injury; Redondo and Simeone ruled midfield; Maradona left early to a huge ovation and there was still time for Batistuta to complete his hat-trick in the final minute. Greek manager Alketas Panagoulias complained that his team had brought their cameras to take pictures of Maradona rather than play the game.**

# Maradona hogs headlines

JUNE 21 = FOXBORO

**ARGENTINA 4 — GREECE 0**

*Batistuta 1, 44, 89, Maradona 60*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Islas | 1 | Minou |
| Sensini | 2 | Apostolakis |
| Caceres | 3 | Kolitsidakis |
| Ruggeri | 4 | Manolas |
| Chamot | 5 | Kalitzakis |
| Simeone | 6 | Saravakos |
| Maradona | 7 | Nioplias |
| Redondo | 8 | Tsaluhidis |
| Balbo | 9 | Tsiantakis |
| Batistuta | 10 | Kofidis |
| Caniggia | 11 | Machlas |
| Alfio Basile | Coach | Alketas Panagoulias |

**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 53,486. **Ref:** Angeles (US).

***Substitutions:*** Ortega for Maradona (82mins), Mancuso for Balbo (79mins), Maragos for Tsiantakis (46mins), Mitropoulos for Machlas (46mins).

***Booked:*** Caceres (Argentina), Tsaluhidis & Manolas (Greece).

JUNE 21 = DALLAS

**NIGERIA 3 — BULGARIA 0**

*Yekini 21, Amokachi 43, Amunike 55*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rufai | 1 | Mikhailov |
| Nwanu | 2 | Kremenliev |
| Eguavoen | 3 | Hubchev |
| Okechukwu | 4 | Ivanov |
| Iroha | 5 | Tzvetanov |
| George | 6 | Yankov |
| Siasia | 7 | Borimirov |
| Oliseh | 8 | Lechkov |
| Amunike | 9 | Balakov |
| Yekini | 10 | Kostadinov |
| Amokachi | 11 | Stoichkov |
| Clemens Westerhof | Coach | Dimitar Penev |

**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 44,932. **Ref:** Badilla (CR).

***Substitutions:*** Ezuego for George (76mins), Adepoju for Siasia (68mins), Yordanov for Borimirov (72mins), Sirakov for Lechkov (58mins).

***Booked:*** Amunike (Nigeria), Lechkov (Bulgaria).

## ALL A NIGERIAN COULD DESIRE

**NIGERIA fulfilled all the dreams and hopes of their admirers and the wishmakers as they destroyed the Bulgarians with an exciting display of attacking football.**

Bulgaria began as if they meant to crush the Nigerian bandwagon before it had started rolling. Kostadinov went clear through in the seventh minute but sought a few extra split-seconds for his shot and Rufai dived to save. Then a Bulgarian raid from the opposite, right flank almost ended in a Nigerian own goal.

But Nigeria's delight in their long-awaited World Cup debut could not be resisted. In the 17th minute Siasia sent George clear down the right, he drew the Bulgarian cover then crossed square across the face of goal for Yekini to score left-footed. The big centre-forward chased the ball right on in to the back of the net.

Bulgaria carried on as if nothing had happened. A goalmouth scramble in the Nigerian penalty almost ended in an own goal and then Stoichkov had a magnificently-struck goal from a free-kick disallowed for reasons which mystified Bulgaria. The decision earned the referee a ticking-off from Stoichkov as officials and players left the pitch at half-time.

By then, Nigeria were 2-0 ahead. The second goal was hardly a surprise. First Amunike fired against the post then, after Nigeria had regained possession and attacked again, Yekini created new danger with his cross from the right. Amokachi won a falling-down duel with a Bulgarian defender and rose first to chase after the ball and shoot it back into goal.

Nine minutes into the second half Amunike completed the scoring with a diving header — though substitute Adepoju might have had a fourth with his first touch on arrival in the 69th minute had it not been for a fine save by Mikhailov.

For Nigeria, everything they could have wished; for Bulgaria, their worst nightmare and one to wipe away all the happy complacency which followed their dramatic victory over France in the last qualifying tie.

In the net . . . Nigeria's Rachidi Yekini.

JUNE 25 = FOXBORO

## ARGENTINA 2 NIGERIA 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Caniggia 22, 29* | | *Siasia 8* |
| Islas | 1 | Rufai |
| Sensini | 2 | Nwanu |
| Ruggeri | 3 | Eguavoen |
| Caceres | 4 | Okechukwu |
| Chamot | 5 | Emenalo |
| Simeone | 6 | George |
| Redondo | 7 | Siasia |
| Balbo | 8 | Oliseh |
| Maradona | 9 | Amunike |
| Batistuta | 10 | Yekini |
| Caniggia | 11 | Amokachi |
| Alfio Basile | *Coach* | Clemens Westerhof |

**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 54,453. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).

***Substitutions:*** Diaz for Sensini (87mins), Mancuso for Balbo (71mins).

***Booked:*** Caniggia (Argentina), Oliseh, Eguavoen & Emenalo (Nigeria).

## NO STOPPING HOT-SHOT CANIGGIA

**ARGENTINA recovered from the threat of another African debacle to defeat a nervy, nasty Nigeria more decisively than the score suggested.**

Two superb goals from Claudio Caniggia — his second the 1,500th in World Cup history — secured victory after Argentina went behind early on to a goal from Samson Siasia — which briefly recalled the shock goal by Cameroon in the Opening Match of the 1990 World Cup finals against Argentina.

This Argentine team, however, appeared made of sterner stuff than the 1990 version and Diego Maradona celebrated his 90th cap and a World Cup record-equalling 21st appearance — level with Uwe Seeler and Wladyslaw Zmuda — by playing a significant role in creating both goals.

Not so impressive a display was given by Swedish referee Bo Karlsson who made a serious error in the 12th minute by booking Oliseh instead of Eguavon for bringing down Caniggia. Later Eguavon was correctly booked in his own right for what can only be described as a physical assault on Caniggia. He was lucky not to be sent off for this incident — let alone because he would have been expelled for two yellow cards had referee Karlsson got the first decision right.

Later, in an official admission of the mistake, the World Cup disciplinary committee quashed Oliseh's yellow card.

Siasia thrilled fans of the "Super Eagles" when he opened the score in the ninth minute.

Argentina claimed offside in vain as he sprinted on to a superb through pass from Yekini and chipped beyond goalkeeper Islas for his 14th goal in 40 games for the African champions.

Indeed, one of the Argentines appealing for offside was leftback Chamot, whose daydreaming meant he was the man left playing Siasia onside.

Only a great save from Islas prevented Nigeria from doubling their lead after 14 minutes but Argentina quickly hit back. Gabriel Batistuta, the hat-trick hero of their 4-0 win over Greece, had an equaliser disallowed after referee Karlsson refused to ratify a quick free kick following Eguavon's first foul on Caniggia.

However, Argentina had to wait only a matter of seconds. Maradona back-heeled, Fernando Redondo fired through the wall, Rufai could not hold on and Caniggia scored the 1,500th goal in World Cup history.

The foul count mounted as Nigeria tried to claw their way back, and they committed 27 of the 30 fouls recorded in a packed first hour. Mike Emanalo collected their third yellow card of the game for kicking through Caniggia and then stamping on him in the follow-through. But the Argentinian, who needed lengthy treatment, also went into the book for getting up off the stretcher instead of going off and coming back on.

Nigeria brought on Mutiu Adepoju, the Santander forward, for goalscorer Siasia and despite Maradona's limited but always visionary contribution, the game remained finely poised. Twice Yekini pierced the Argentine defence but each time he was frustrated by an offside flag.

In the back . . . Eguavoen (2) tackles Caniggia.

JUNE 26 = CHICAGO

## BULGARIA 4 GREECE 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Stoichkov 5 (pen), 55 (pen), Lechkov 66, Borimirov 89* | | |
| Mikhailov | 1 | Atmatzidis |
| Kremenliev | 2 | Apostolakis |
| Ivanov | 3 | Kalitzakis |
| Hubchev | 4 | Karagiannis |
| Tzvetanov | 5 | Karataidis |
| Balakov | 6 | Nioplias |
| Lechkov | 7 | Marangos |
| Yankov | 8 | Hantzidis |
| Kostadinov | 9 | Kofidis |
| Sirakov | 10 | Machlas |
| Stoichkov | 11 | Alexoudis |
| Dimitar Penev | *Coach* | Alketas Panagoulias |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 63,160. **Ref:** Bujsaim (UAE)

***Substitutions:*** Kiriakov for Tzvetanov (76mins), Borimirov for Kostadinov (81mins), Mitropoulos for Hantzidis (47mins), Dimitriadis for Alexudis (57mins).

***Booked:*** Ivanov, Hubchev, Yankov & Borimirov (Bulgaria), Karagiannis, Hantzidis, Alexoudis & Mitropoulos (Greece).

## BULGARIA'S LUCKY NUMBER . . . 18

**BULGARIA'S victory provided their first World Cup win, in their 18th game, since they made their debut in the finals three decades ago. This also lifted them within sight of a place in the second round. Greece, who threw out half their team for this match, were no match for Bulgaria in an aggressively competitive Balkan derby. Two penalties from star striker Hristo Stoichkov, a superb individual goal from Yordan Lechkov in the 66th minute and a late fourth from Daniel Borimirov completed a disaster for the Greeks.**

**Bulgaria, in their sixth finals since 1962, looked a different side from the one devoured 3-0 by Nigeria's "Super Eagles". Stoichkov orchestrated Bulgaria's victory with a penalty early in each half of a bruising match, in which eight players were booked.**

**He also set up the final goal for Borimirov, who tapped home a rebound in the dying seconds after Greek goalkeeper Atmatzidis could only parry Stoichkov's free-kick.**

**"This victory has brought us great joy. Now we are looking towards the future with confidence and feeling a bit more relaxed," said Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev. In contrast, Greece, routed by Argentina in their first game, were revealed as the weakest team at the finals, their first.**

**Greek coach Alketas Panagoulias, never short of an excuse, blamed United Arab Emirates referee Ali Mohamed Bujsaim — particularly over the penalty for Bulgaria's opening goal. It was awarded after only five minutes for handball by Greek striker Alexoudis. Panagoulias said: "The first goal badly affected us. Both penalties were not intentional. It was exactly the same thing as against Argentina — a player fell down and touched the ball."**

**Stoichkov stroked home his second penalty in the 56th minute after Atmatzidis held back Sirakov.**

# group d

JUNE 30 = DALLAS

## ARGENTINA 0 BULGARIA 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | Stoichkov 61, Sirakov 90 |
| Islas | 1 | Mikhailov |
| Diaz | 2 | Kremenliev |
| Ruggeri | 3 | Hubchev |
| Caceres | 4 | Ivanov |
| Chamot | 5 | Tzvetanov |
| Simeone | 6 | Balakov |
| Redondo | 7 | Lechkov |
| Balbo | 8 | Sirakov |
| Rodriguez | 9 | Yankov |
| Batistuta | 10 | Kostadinov |
| Caniggia | 11 | Stoichkov |
| Alfio Basile | Coach | Dimitar Penev |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 63,998. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun).

***Substitutions:*** Ortega for Caniggia (26mins), Medina Bello for Rodriguez (66mins), Kiriakov for Kostadinov (73mins), Borimirov for Lechkov (73mins).

***Sent off:*** Tzvetanov (67mins).

***Booked:*** Ruggeri, Rodriguez & Batistuta (Argentina), Stoichkov, Yankov, Ivanov & Balakov (Bulgaria).

## DIEGO GOES SLINKING OUT

**GIVEN the circumstances, defeat for Argentina was not so surprising. Only a few hours earlier the squad had learned that skipper Diego Maradona had been thrown out of the World Cup — both by his own Federation and by FIFA — after failing a routine dope test.**

All of a sudden their strategy and developing team spirit was gone. Argentina, from being one of the early favourites, had ben cast back into the role of pariahs. Bulgaria, thus presented with the opportunity of doubling their World Cup success rate (only one previous win ever, remember) did what was necessary.

The first half was typical of a struggle between two teams playing on each other's nerves. Five players were shown the yellow card for an assortment of trips and pushes and there was only one serious goalmouth incident. In the 22nd minute Caniggia unleashed a drive

which Mikhailov, diving, tipped wide of the post.

The second half was a less uptight affair, thanks largely to the fatigue writ large upon the slow-motion legs of both teams. On the hour, Bulgaria gained new encouragement when Stoichkov, on the break, slid the ball beyond Argentina keeper Islas with great-precision.

Stoichkov (left) was superb. He found extra energy where other players could not, roaming out on the left, always a threat, either with his pace or with his creative passing as his team-mates took it in tiring turns to support him. After defender Tsvetanov was sent off for a second yellow card offence in the 65th minute — tripping Ortega — Stoichkov even doubled for a while as a left-back.

Time and again Argentina appeared on the verge of a breakthrough, going close on several occasions to springing an unmarked extra man into the Bulgarian penalty box. Each time the Bulgarians, flying from one perch to another in defence, managed to find the legs, ankles, knees, to block the danger. Lechkov and Balakov, combining superbly out on the right, regularly eased the pressure on outnumbered team-mates with the way they managed time-wasting possession.

Their reward arrived in the very last minute when Sirakov headed in from a Balakov corner. The goal was of huge importance. Nigeria, beating Greece, were surely heading for the top of the table. But that one header by Sirakov lifted Bulgaria up into second place and pushed Argentina down to third . . . and a trip across America to face another eastern European team, Romania.

Afterwards Argentina coach Alfio Basile praised his players for their commitment and concentration in the most difficult of circumstances. He could not praise them enough, he said, and he had no criticism in defeat.

JUNE 30 = FOXBORO

## GREECE 0 NIGERIA 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | George 45 Amokachi 90 |
| Karkamanis | 1 | Rufai |
| Kalitzakis | 2 | Keshi |
| Karagiannis | 3 | Okechukwu |
| Alexiou | 4 | Nwanu |
| Tsaluhidis | 5 | Emenalo |
| Nioplias | 6 | George |
| Mitropoulos | 7 | Siasia |
| Hantzidis | 8 | Oliseh |
| Kofidis | 9 | Amunike |
| Alexandris | 10 | Amokachi |
| Machlas | 11 | Yekini |
| Alketas Panagoulias | Coach | Clemens Westerhof |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 53,001. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco).

***Substitutions:*** Tsiantakis for Mitropulos (79mins), Dimitriadis for Machlas (79mins), Adepoju for George (83mins), Okocha for Yekini (68mins).

***Booked:*** Mitropulos & Kalitzakis (Greece), Oliseh & Keshi (Nigeria).

## GREECE OUT OF THEIR DEPTH

**DANIEL AMOKACHI'S last-minute goal saved Nigeria an exhausting coast-to-coast switch, and earned a fascinating second-round clash with three-times champions Italy. It also sealed a third consecutive defeat for Greece who really had proved out of their depth in this World Cup.**

With barely any normal time left, Argentina were in pole position on goal difference. Then Bulgaria scored a last-gasp goal in Dallas and suddenly they leapfrogged to the top. Nigeria coach Clemens Westerhof was given the bad news by a touchline policeman and immediately sent out a signal for all-out attack.

Six minutes into added time, Amokachi responded with one of the goals the tournament.

Amokachi said later: "The coach got the message to me just before the end that Bulgaria were winning 2-0 and we were suddenly in third place. He told me to just get the ball and go through the Greek defenders. I needed a bit of luck to do what he wanted but I got it in the last minute and it was beautiful. It was a very important goal for my country and an honour for me."

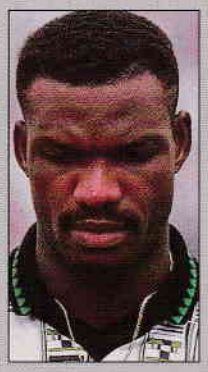
Westerhof, whose side led through George's goal in time added at the end of the first half, said: "One minute we were going all the way to LA to play Romania, now we stay here. It's the difference between a long flight and rushed preparation or rest and a smooth build-up."

Westerhof confirmed that, had they not won the group, Nigeria would have protested against the result of their game against Argentina being allowed to stand by the organising committee in the wake of the Maradona doping revelations.

The Nigerians suffered a blow with a second booking for Oliseh but he was later reprieved when FIFA confirmed that his first booking, against Argentina, had been a case of mistaken identity.

The Super Eagles never soared to the heights but they snatched the lead at a critical time just before the break when Emmanuel Amunike arrowed at the heart of the Greek defence before sliding a pass to George. Goalkeeper Karkamanis dashed forward only for the Ajax midfielder to chip over him. This goal, plus Amokachi's effort, sealed a third consecutive defeat for Greece, clearly unable to cope at this level.

**DIEGO MARADONA was NOT the first player to fail a World Cup finals dope test since Scotland's Willie Johnston in 1978 — as even FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter claimed. In 1986, Spain's Ramon Caldere failed a dope test (for ephedrine) but was not punished because it was decided the team doctor had been mistaken in his assessment of a cold cure compound. The doctor and the FA were both fined.**



**Nigeria's AUGUSTINE EGUAVOEN** *(left)* **escaped expulsion against Argentina thanks to a mistake by Swedish referee Bo Karlsson. The official awarded a yellow card to Sunday Oliseh after Eguavoen had fouled Claudio Caniggia. Later Eguavoen was booked for another foul but, of course, escaped expulsion. FIFA's disciplinary committee admitted the referee's error when it later quashed Oliseh's booking.**

**Greece coach ALKETAS PANAGULIAS apologised to supporters for his team's poor campaign at USA '94.**

**Bulgaria's 4-0 victory over Greece was their first win in six World Cup finals tournaments since 1962.**

**Nigeria's squad were not seen off by fans or family when they flew from Lagos because of security fears amid a domestic political crisis. Political problems meant the squad's departure was delayed both by visa problems and by the refusal of the American aviation authorities to allow the Nigerian national airline to fly into the United States.**

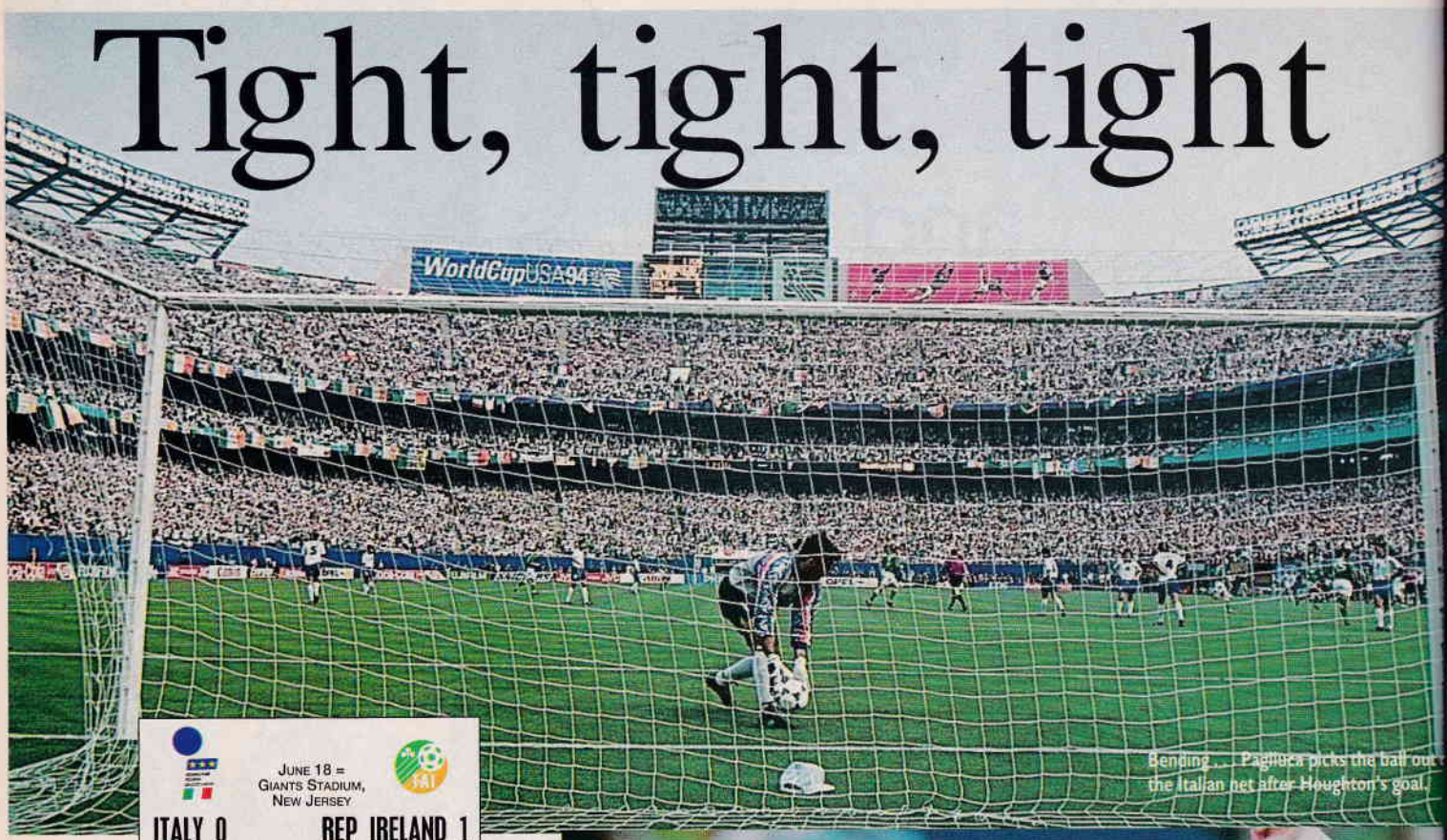
**Argentine Federation spokesman DAVID PINTADO said the decision had been taken to withdraw Diego Maradona from the finals BEFORE the disciplinary committee met, to avert the risk of punishment for the entire Argentine team.**

## GROUP D – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **D1** Nigeria | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| **D2** Bulgaria | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| **D3** Argentina | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| D4 Greece | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 0 |

**LEADING SCORERS:** *3* Batistuta (Argentina), Stoichkov (Bulgaria). *2* Amokachi (Nigeria), Caniggia (Argentina).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 333,030.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 55,505.

# Tight, tight, tight




Bending . . . Pagliuca picks the ball out of the Italian net after Houghton's goal.

JUNE 18 = GIANTS STADIUM, NEW JERSEY

**ITALY 0 REP IRELAND 1**

| | | Houghton 12 |
|---|---|---|
| Pagliuca | 1 | Bonner |
| Tassotti | 2 | Irwin |
| Costacurta | 3 | Babb |
| Baresi | 4 | McGrath |
| Maldini | 5 | Phelan |
| Donadoni | 6 | Houghton |
| D Baggio | 7 | Keane |
| Albertini | 8 | Sheridan |
| Evani | 9 | Townsend |
| R Baggio | 10 | Staunton |
| Signori | 11 | Coyne |
| Arrigo Sacchi | Coach | Jack Charlton |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 74,826. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)

***Substitutions:*** Massaro for Evani (45mins), Berti for Signori (83mins), McAteer for Houghton (67mins), Aldridge for Coyne (89mins).

***Booked:*** Irwin, Phelan & Coyne (Republic of Ireland)

## HOUGHTON JOINS THE GIANTS

**A SUPERB 11th-minute goal from veteran Ray Houghton provided Ireland with a victory over Italy to avenge defeat in the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup.**

This surprise result brought with it a host of problems and extra pressures for Italy manager Arrigo Sacchi.

Ireland were good value for their victory in Giants Stadium, though it was hard to imagine they would be able to maintain the same pace and level of physical effort in the matches and the heat and humidity to come. But they had an ideal start, and their defence was more than equal to the sporadic and disjointed attacking challenge presented by Italy.

Roberto Baggio appeared alone and unsupported for much of the match and even the second-half introduction of the Milan workhorse, Massaro, was too little too late.

Four minutes before the end Baggio did work a rare few yards of space in front of goal and just outside the penalty box but his shot flew over the bar.

By that time Ireland should have been two goals ahead. They opened the scoring when sloppy play by Baresi, of all people, allowed Houghton the opportunity to lope across the front of the defence, then twist and angle a looping shot beyond Pagliuca and just under the bar. The goalkeeper was panned by the Italian media for the way he allowed himself to be caught, far off his line.

Stretching . . . Maldini (left) gets in a cross despite Babb's challenge.

Ireland went close to a second after the interval when Sheridan — perhaps their most improved player over the past six months — was unlucky to see a shot from 12 yards strike the top of Pagliuca's crossbar and ricochet to safety.

The final whistle of a match almost more passionately awaited off the pitch than on it sent much of football New York spinning off into the sort of celebrations more usually associated with Saint Patrick's Day.

Sacchi later refused to be drawn into detailed criticism of his team, saying only: "We kept the ball too long and gave the Irish a chance to recover and regoup all the time. We tried hard but we did not play well though it would be dangerous to single out individuals. We must try to stay positive."

JUNE 19 = RFK STADIUM, WASHINGTON

## NORWAY 1 MEXICO 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Rekdal 85* | | |
| Thorstvedt | 1 | Campos |
| Haland | 2 | Suarez |
| Bratseth | 3 | Gutierrez |
| Bjornebye | 4 | Ambriz |
| Mykland | 5 | R Ramirez |
| Leonhardsen | 6 | Garcia |
| Berg | 7 | Del Olmo |
| J I Jakobsen | 8 | Ramirez Perales |
| Bohinen | 9 | Valdes |
| Flo | 10 | Sanchez |
| Fjortoft | 11 | Zague |
| Egil Olsen | Coach | Miguel Mejia Baron |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 52,359. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun).

***Substitutions:*** Halle for Jakobsen (46mins), Rekdal for Mykland (77mins), Galindo for Valdes (46mins), Bernal for Gutierrez (70mins).

***Booked:*** Haland & Leonhardsen (Norway), Suarez (Mexico).

## NORWAY LEAVE VICTORY SO LATE

**SUBSTITUTE Kjetil Rekdal provided a late, decisive breakthrough in a match which had been alive with energy and passion but had not contained goals.**

**The game had been forecast as a contrast between Norwegian power and Mexican skill, but the Norwegians displayed not a little skill of their own as well as rigid tactical discipline and selfless teamwork.**

**Mexico, quick and alert, could never quite find the key to give Hugo Sanchez or Zague the time necessary to strike for goal.**

**Norway had a goal disallowed for offside in the 29th minute and might have scored for real in the 42nd. First the flamboyant Campos saved brilliantly at close range from Fjortoft. Then, when the goalkeeper missed the right-wing corner, Bratseth's diving header flew narrowly wide. When Mexico forced their way back into the game, Thorstvedt saved comfortably from a low drive by the advancing Ambriz.**

**For all Mexico's twisting and turning in attack, Norway continued to provide the serious threats, though Thorstvedt had to make one magnificent save from Luis Garcia, throwing himself to his right to push a 25-yard drive away for a cormer.**

**Leonhardsen had a cross-shot cleared for a corner and then Fjortoft was narrowly wide. Eventually, in the 85th minute, Fjortoft *(above)* appeared to be fouled as he darted towards the penalty box but referee Puhl waved play on and Rekdal, brought into the game eight minutes earlier, slid the ball inside the far post.**

**Mexico's luck was out. Just to prove the point a diving header by Zague, in the last minute, hit a post, hit the fallen Zague on the head and then — just as it appeared set to cross the line — was cleared by Berg.**

**Rekdal said: "We were nervous at the start but things got steadily better and it turned out to be a perfect opening for us. This has been my greatest experience as a player."**

**Mexican coach Miguel Mejia Baron said he needed more time to consider what had gone wrong with their game plan but Luis Garcia blamed the heat for the team's failure to make better use of their possession in the last 15 minutes.**

● Italian captain **FRANCO BARESI** *(right)* underwent knee cartilage surgery in New York the day after being injured against Norway. After a day's rest he was able to rejoin the squad though unfit to play again in the finals.

● Mexico manager **MIGUEL MEJIA BARON** clashed with FIFA over whether he could use goalkeeper Jorge Campos as an outfield player if he wished. FIFA said he couldn't, Mejia Baron said there was nothing in the regulations to stop him.

● **JACK CHARLTON'S** anger over the water situation appeared to have been based on a misunderstanding. FIFA had never ruled against players taking water during a game, only that they should do so at the touchlines.

Diving . . . Norway's Bratseth (foreground) heads wide with the Mexican defence well beaten.

# Worl

# USA 9

***FIRST ROUND***

**GROUP A**

United States v Switzerland.1-
Colombia v Romania .....1-
United States v Colombia..2-
Romania v Switzerland .....1-
United States v Romania ...0-
Switzerland v Colombia .....1-

**GROUP B**

Cameroon v Sweden .....2-
Brazil v Russia .....2-
Brazil v Cameroon .....3-
Sweden v Russia .....3-
Russia v Cameroon.....6-
Brazil v Sweden .....1-

**GROUP C**

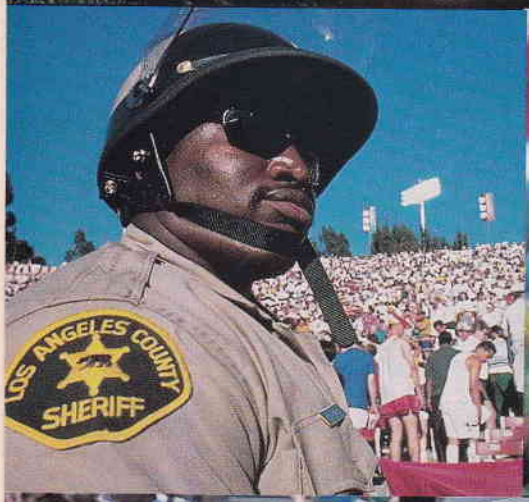
Germany v Bolivia.....1-
Spain v South Korea.....2-
Germany v Spain .....1-
South Korea v Bolivia .....0-
Bolivia v Spain .....1-
Germany v South Korea ....3-

**GROUP D**

Argentina v Greece .....4-
Nigeria v Bulgaria.....3-
Argentina v Nigeria .....2-
Bulgaria v Greece .....4-
Greece v Nigeria .....0-
Argentina v Bulgaria.....0-

**GROUP E**

Italy v Rep Ireland .....0-
Norway v Mexico .....1-
Italy v Norway .....1-
Mexico v Rep Ireland .....2-



# d Cup
# 4 results

Rep Ireland v Norway .....0-0
Italy v Mexico .....1-1

**GROUP F**

Belgium v Morocco.....1-0
Holland v Saudi Arabia .....2-1
Belgium v Holland.....1-0
Saudi Arabia v Morocco ....2-1
Morocco v Holland .....1-2
Belgium v Saudi Arabia.....0-1

***SECOND ROUND***

Germany v Belgium .....3-2
Spain v Switzerland .....3-0
Saudi Arabia v Sweden.....1-3
Romania v Argentina.....3-2
Holland v Rep Ireland .....2-0
Brazil v United States .....1-0
Nigeria v Italy .....1-2
Mexico v Bulgaria .....1-1
*Bulgaria won 3-1 on pens*

***QUARTER-FINALS***

Italy v Spain .....2-1
Holland v Brazil .....2-3
Bulgaria v Germany .....2-1
Romania v Sweden .....2-2
*Sweden won 5-4 on pens*

***SEMI-FINALS***

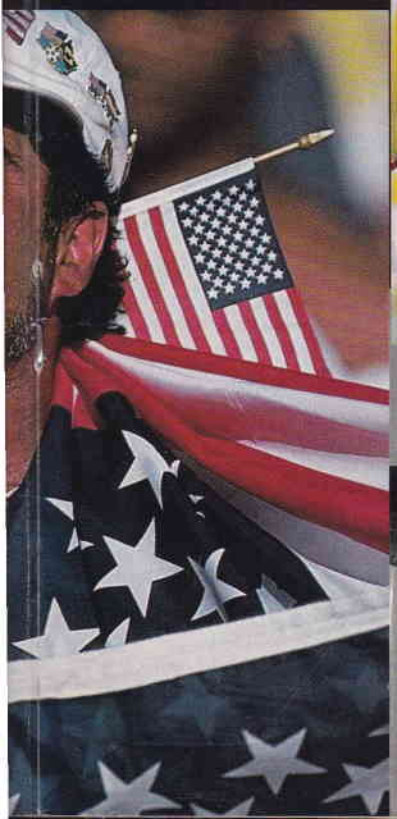
Bulgaria v Italy .....1-2
Sweden v Brazil .....0-1

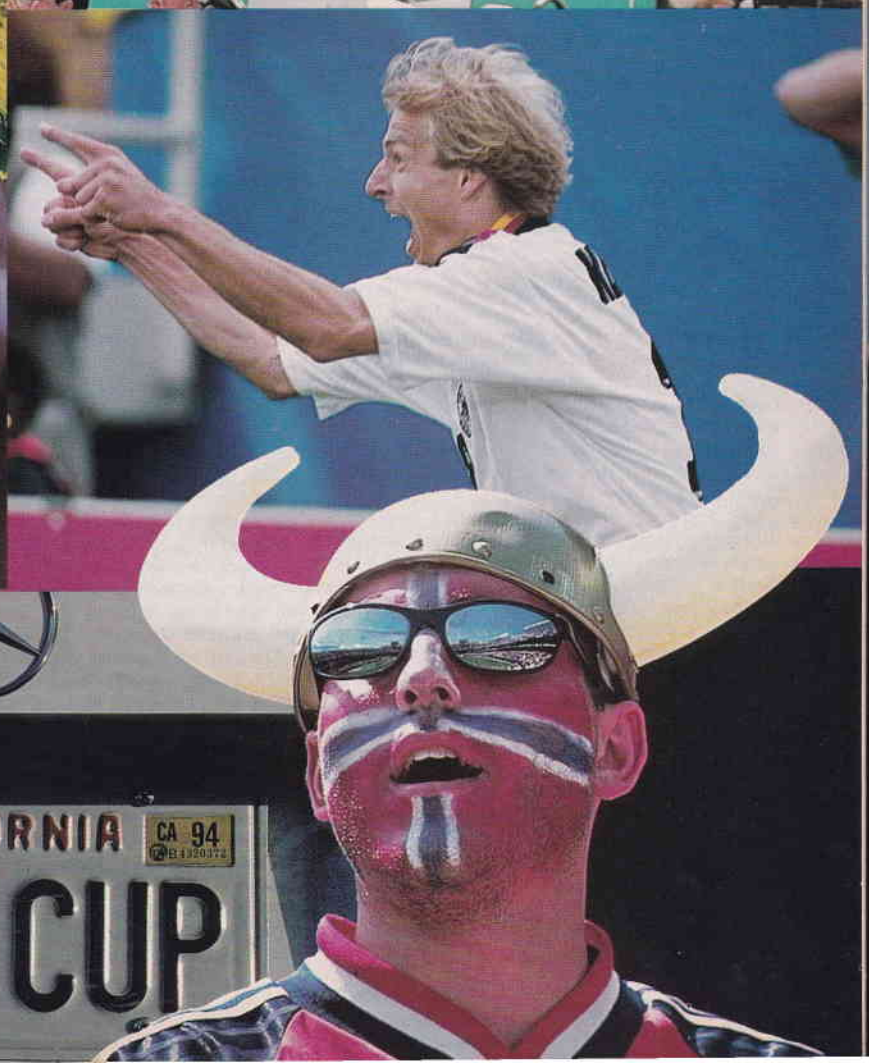
***THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF***

Bulgaria v Sweden.....0-4

***FINAL***

Brazil v Italy.....0-0
*Brazil won 3-2 on pens*





# group e

JUNE 23 = NEW JERSEY

## ITALY 1 NORWAY 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| D Baggio 69 | | |
| Pagliuca | 1 | Thorstvedt |
| Benarrivo | 2 | Haland |
| Costacurta | 3 | Berg |
| Baresi | 4 | Bratseth |
| Maldini | 5 | Bjornebye |
| Berti | 6 | Rushfeldt |
| Albertini | 7 | Bohinen |
| D Baggio | 8 | Mykland |
| Signori | 9 | Leonhardsen |
| Casiraghi | 10 | Flo |
| R Baggio | 11 | Fjortoft |
| Arrigo Sacchi | Coach | Egil Olsen |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 74,624. **Ref:** Krug (Ger).

***Substitutions:*** Apolloni for Baresi (48mins), Marchegiani for R Baggio (22mins), Massaro for Casiraghi (68mins), Jakobsen for Rushfelt (46mins), Rekdal for Mykland (80mins).

***Sent off:*** Pagliuca (21mins).

***Booked:*** Casiraghi (Italy), Bjornebye & Haland (Norway).

## ONE FROM DINO AVERTS DISASTER

**SHARDS of soccer history went flying in all directions as Italy smashed their way out of the World Cup hothouse to defeat Norway 1-0 — after being reduced to nine men — by injury and the first-half expulsion of goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca.**

He became the first goalkeeper ever to be sent off in the finals of the World Cup when he felled Leonhardsen in the 21st minute in Giants Stadium, New York. German referee Helmut Krug had no hesitation in producing the red card, provoking panic on the Italian substitutes as reserve goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani was stripped for action.

The drama was not yet complete. To bring on Marchegiani in goal, Italy needed to remove one outfield player and the man chosen by coach Arrigo Sacchi was, astonishingly, Roberto Baggio.

At that point Sacchi's Italy were staring in the face a disaster to match the 1-0 knock-out blow delivered by North Korea to Edmondo Fabbri's team in the first round of the 1966 World Cup finals in England.

Sacchi justified removing Baggio — his one internationally acknowledged match-winner — by saying: "Roberto has some injuries and we needed 10 players on the pitch who could run all the time. The decision was taken for his own good and that of the team. I'm sure he will be back and much fitter to have a great game next time out against Mexico."

For all Sacchi's confidence, he could not have been in any doubt that had the decision backfired, and his team had lost, he could not have returned safely to Italy and instant and ignominious dismissal would certainly have awaited him the moment the World Cup campaign had ended.

Italy, apparently in all sorts of trouble, responded with a gutsy and gritty performance which was ultimately rewarded when midfielder Dino Baggio — no relation to Roberto — headed a dramatic 69th-minute winner from a free-kick way out on the left by Signori. At the end Italy were back on World Cup course and the predominantly Italian-supporting crowd roared excited approval at the final whistle.

Both teams began in predictable formations: Italy with their usual back four, Berti, Albertini, Dino Baggio and Signori in midfield and Casiraghi and Roberto Baggio up front. Norway surprisingly left out Jakobsen and played with their usual safety-first 4-5-1 with Fjortoft up front and youngster Rushfeldt making his World Cup debut.

Italy, with so much ground to make up after the defeat by the Republic of Ireland, set the pace. Roberto Baggio fired just over in the seventh minute and Dino Baggio forced a diving save from Thorstvedt in the 13th.

**Leaping . . . Italy's Dino Baggio gets airborne to beat Mexico's Bernal to the ball.**

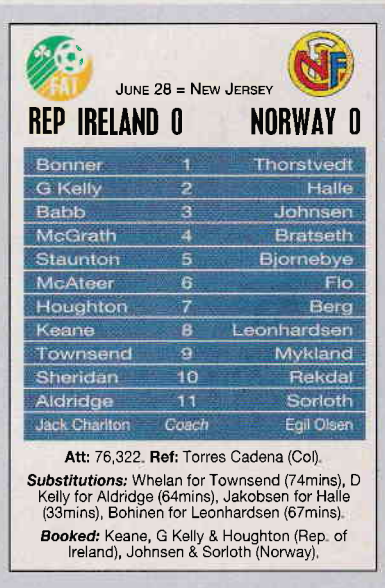
Then came the Pagliuca incident which threatened to turn the game upside down. Hardly surprisingly in the circumstances, with the negative Norwegians playing a weakened Italy, there was little goal action in the rest of the first half — though Signori tested Thorstvedt in the last minute with a low drive after Bratseth had given away possession carelessly.

Norway removed Rushfeldt at half-time, brought in Jakobsen on the left and switched Flo to the right. The change almost brought instant reward when Flo found space on the right in the 48th minute and crossed for Mykland to head narrowly over the bar. The incident proved costly for Italy in one way, however, since the collapse of the scrum around Mykkand left Franco Baresi limping. Now he, too, had to be substituted.

Italy introduced their permitted third substitute in the 68th minute when Casiraghi, never quite the same after a first-half clash of heads with Berg, was replaced by Massaro. Italy took the opportunity of a free-kick to make the switch and no sooner had Massaro run over to the penalty box than Signori arrowed in his kick and Dino Baggio burst through the goalmouth crowd to head past Thorstvedt.

For Italy the drama of their struggle with fate was not yet over. Maldini, already struggling to beat the thigh injury collected in the Champions Cup Final, collapsed in agony over the goal-line with a damaged right ankle. Even the magic spray and a hefty bandage could not help him do little more than hobble back into the action but Italy needed every hand on deck and he limped along on the left of midfield while Massaro — ever the man for a crisis — took over at left-back.

Norway had a goal disallowed eight minutes from time but, in all the circumstances, nobody could have begrudged Italy a success which will enter World Cup legend.



JUNE 28 = NEW JERSEY

## REP IRELAND 0 NORWAY 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bonner | 1 | Thorstvedt |
| G Kelly | 2 | Halle |
| Babb | 3 | Johnsen |
| McGrath | 4 | Bratseth |
| Staunton | 5 | Bjornebye |
| McAteer | 6 | Flo |
| Houghton | 7 | Berg |
| Keane | 8 | Leonhardsen |
| Townsend | 9 | Mykland |
| Sheridan | 10 | Rekdal |
| Aldridge | 11 | Sorloth |
| Jack Charlton | Coach | Egil Olsen |

**Att:** 76,322. **Ref:** Torres Cadena (Col).

***Substitutions:*** Whelan for Townsend (74mins), D Kelly for Aldridge (64mins), Jakobsen for Halle (33mins), Bohinen for Leonhardsen (67mins).

***Booked:*** Keane, G Kelly & Houghton (Rep. of Ireland), Johnsen & Sorloth (Norway).

## OFF THE BENCH, INTO ROUND TWO

**JACK CHARLTON, paradoxically, was happy to be heading back to Orlando after this hard-fought draw left them in second place in the group and earned a second-round tie in the Citrus Bowl. A delighted Charlton had to take his bow from the TV gallery because of his one-game ban from the bench following his clash with FIFA officials in Orlando.**

Charlton said: "We've come through the toughest group of the lot. It's been very competitive and I feel sorry for Norway. But I am delighted we've made it and we're not worried about going back to Orlando

JUNE 24 = ORLANDO

## MEXICO 2 REP IRELAND 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Luis Garcia 44, 66* | | *Aldridge 84* |
| Campos | 1 | Bonner |
| Rodriguez | 2 | Irwin |
| Suarez | 3 | McGrath |
| Ramirez Perales | 4 | Babb |
| Del Olmo | 5 | Phelan |
| Bernal | 6 | Houghton |
| Luis Garcia | 7 | Townsend |
| Ambriz | 8 | Keane |
| Garcia Aspe | 9 | Sheridan |
| Hermosillo | 10 | Staunton |
| Zague | 11 | Coyne |
| Miguel M. Baron | Coach | Jack Charlton |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 61,219. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)

***Substitutions:*** Gutierrez for Rodriguez (79mins), Salvador for Hermosillo (79mins), McAteer for Staunton (65mins), Aldridge for Coyne (66mins).

***Booked:*** Campos & Del Olmo (Mexico), Irwin & Phelan (Republic of Ireland).

# ROW DOES NOT HELP IRISH CAUSE

**MEXICO'S victory — triumphing over the heat and humidity as well as the Irish — threw up all manner of speculation in the state of Group B.**

With such a tight series of results thus far, the prospect arose that all four teams might finish on four points . . . and that one of them might be eliminated in the first round when a third-placed team with three points might go through from another group.

The Irish never looked quite their true selves. First, they expended a costly amount of energy chasing an early knock-out goal and thus ran out of legs before half-time — when Mexico grabbed the opening goal.

In the second half the Irish were in the rare position of having to chase the game and they wasted a lot of possession with some less than accurate passing.

Jumping . . . Mexico's Luis Garcia and Ramirez (3) crowd out Ireland's Townsend.

Coyne, fit to play after badly dehydrating during the victory over Italy, might have put Ireland into the lead after five minutes but was seconds too late chasing in on a dangerous cross from the left by Babb.

Both teams tested each other's defence and resolve. Staunton chased hard up and down the left of midfield for Ireland while the tireless Zague roamed intelligently left to right and back again across the face of a Sanchez-less Mexican attack.

Mexico took the lead in the 43rd minute with a superb goal. Bernal raided down the right and popped in a short centre which Hermosillo laid back so that Luis Garcia could hit a 20-yard drive beyond Bonner's stretching fingers.

Garcia Aspe, back in the Mexican line-up after suspension, emerged as the dominant figure as Mexico extended their lead in the 65th minute. Garcia Aspe was the creator, cutting in from the left to open up the chance for Luis Garcia to score his second.

The goal was instantly followed by administrative chaos over Ireland's wish to bring on McAteer and Aldridge simultaneously as substitutes. All this, of course, further fed Charlton's growing paranoia about all things FIFA-esque — on top of which bookings for Irwin and Phelan meant he would need two new full-backs for the match against Norway.

Seven minutes from time Aldridge headed a consolation goal for Ireland which was to prove vital as goal difference became a decisive factor in the group.

for the next match. We'll be playing another European team and they will have just as many problems with the heat.

"I was surprised Norway did not throw more at us in the first half because when you got a big guy like Jostein Flo against you for headers you've got big problems and a big battle on your hands."

Norway were the failures of the tightest group in the competition. Everyone finished on four points and with equal goal difference. Mexico were top because they scored most goals while the Irish finished second above Italy because of their first-match 1-0 win over the Italians. Norway paid the penalty for scoring just one goal in 270 minutes.

There was rarely much threat of them improving on that as coach Olsen cynically bet on an Italian victory squeezing his defensive experts through. At least the Irish did make a serious effort to win, with Sheridan going closest with an 82nd-minute chip which was inches off target.

Charlton directed operations via coach Maurice Setters thanks to a two-way radio link. With Gary Kelly making a superb World Cup debut on the right side of defence and Staunton on the left, Ireland barely missed Irwin and Phelan.

Norway sat back throughout a first half which produced the most tedious 45 minutes of the finals. After the interval, the news that Italy had broken the ice by scoring against Mexico brought grudging life to the action. Keane's miscued clearance set up Mykland for a cracking low drive in the 49th minute, but Bonner sprawled to his right to save and then denied Rekdal and Sorloth.

Within moments of Whelan appearing for the tireless Townsend in the 74th minute, Norway had their last chance — only for Sorloth to hook the ball up and over the bar. Ireland then very nearly won the game, but Keane fired high over the top and then Sheridan's chip landed on top of the net.

JUNE 28 = NEW JERSEY

## ITALY 1 MEXICO 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Massaro 48* | | *Bernal 58* |
| Marchegiani | 1 | Campos |
| Benarrivo | 2 | Rodriguez |
| Costacurta | 3 | Suarez |
| Apolloni | 4 | Ramirez Perales |
| Maldini | 5 | Del Olmo |
| Berti | 6 | Bernal |
| Albertini | 7 | Ambriz |
| D Baggio | 8 | Luis Garcia |
| Signori | 9 | Garcia Aspe |
| Casiraghi | 10 | Hermosillo |
| R Baggio | 11 | Alves |
| Arrigo Sacchi | Coach | Miguel Mejia Baron |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 53,186. **Ref:** Lamolina (Arg)

***Substitutions:*** Donadoni for D Baggio (64mins), Massaro for Casiraghi (46mins), Chavez for Luis Garcia (80mins).

***Booked:*** Albertini (Italy), Del Olmo, Luis Garcia & Garcia Aspe (Mexico).

# ITALY SCRAPE TO THIRD PLACE

**ITALY, outstanding footballers playing outstandingly poor football, scrambled a draw and a second-round spot as lucky third-place losers, when they could have won the match, gone top of the group and gone back to Giants Stadium for the second stage.**

Instead they were held to a draw which left Mexico as group winners and despatched the Italians into the third-place cauldron.

They had only to wait a few hours before knowing — thanks to Russia's 6-1 win over Cameroon — that they were certain of a wild card. But that was hardly enough to assuage Italian pride.

Mexico, by contrast, were delighted. They played consistently well throughout the match and looked nothing like the walkovers they were once considered. They played with discipline, tactical commonsense and skill and claimed a half-time lead in vain after a goal was disallowed for offside.

Italy brought on Massaro at half-time for Casiraghi and saw yet another of coach Arrigo Sacchi's substitutions work for the best when Massaro took down a through pass from Albertini on his chest and fired the dropping ball home.

Two minutes later Massaro was back in his own penalty box, clearing one corner at the expense of another and then, five minutes more, he was back up in attack and heading just wide.

At this point Mexico suddenly looked a little vulnerable. Italy had their noses in front, were knocking the ball around with increasing confidence and looked poised to snatch a second goal on the breakaway — an opportunity which Mexico would surely provide as they threw more men forward.

The turning point of the match was in the 57th minute when Dino Baggio was unlucky not to be awarded a penalty after being pushed off the ball by Perales. Mexico then went down to the other end of the pitch, Hermosillo laid the ball off — as he had against Ireland — and Bernal thumped a swerving cross-shot beyond Marchegiani's right hand and just inside the post.

Once Mexico were level, Italy never again looked like winning. Instead they looked a bedraggled bunch of strangers, prodding the ball around with more tension than accuracy. Paolo Maldini damaged his right ankle again and the last chance went begging when when a header from Berti was well saved by Campos in the last minute.

Both managers professed themselves grudgingly satisfied with the draw but Mexico were really the only ones with anything to cheer.

● **Norway and the Irish Republic had hoped in vain for England's PHILIP DON to referee their Group E game, because a majority of the players were from the English championship.**

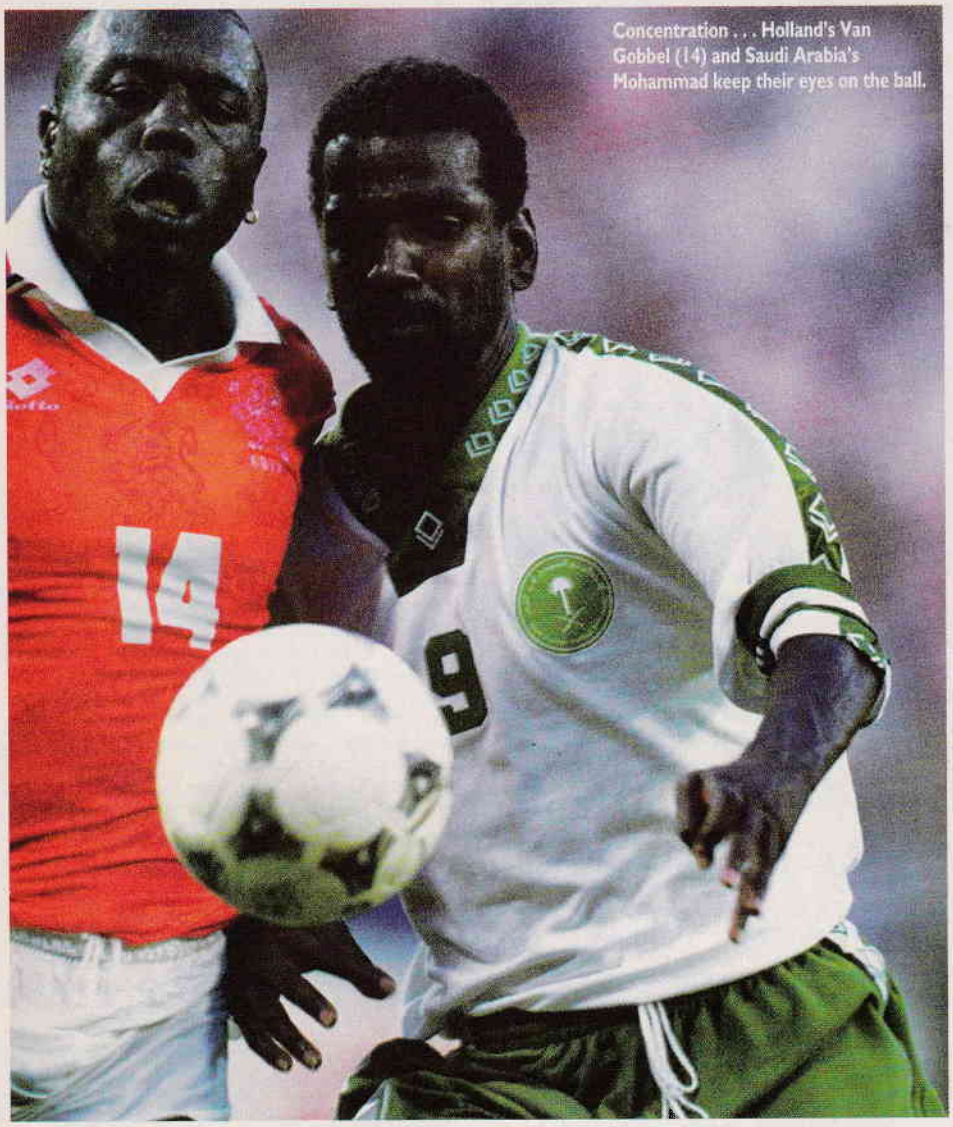
● **DANIELE MASSARO won, against Mexico, the MasterCard-sponsored award for the "Moment of the Game." Massaro asked that the $1,000 charity donation from the sponsors be sent to the Italian Red Cross to aid their work in Rwanda.**

### GROUP E – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **E1** Mexico | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| **E2** Rep. of Ireland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **E3** Italy | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| E4 Norway | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

**LEADING SCORER:** 2 Luis Garcia (Mexico).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 392,536.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 65,422.

# Saudis stage surprise



Concentration . . . Holland's Van Gobbel (14) and Saudi Arabia's Mohammad keep their eyes on the ball.

June 20 = Washington

**HOLLAND 2 SAUDI ARABIA 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Jonk 50, Taument 86* | | *Amin 19* |
| De Goey | 1 | Al Deayea |
| Van Gobbel | 2 | Al Dosari |
| Koeman | 3 | Al Khiawi |
| F De Boer | 4 | Al Jawad |
| Jonk | 5 | Madani |
| Rijkaard | 6 | Amin |
| Wouters | 7 | Al Bishi |
| Overmars | 8 | Al Muwallid |
| Bergkamp | 9 | Jebreen |
| Roy | 10 | Mohammad |
| R De Boer | 11 | Owairan |
| Dick Advocaat | *Coach* | Jorge Solari |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 52,535. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)

***Substitutions:*** Taument for Overmars (57mins), Van Vossen for Roy (80mins), Falatah for Mohammad (44mins), Saleh for Owairan (68mins).

***Booked:*** Van Gobbel & F De Boer (Holland), Al Dosari, Al Jawad & Amin (Saudi Arabia).

## DUTCH STRUGGLE TO SCRAPE IN

**SAUDI ARABIA gave Holland a nasty fright and slipped to defeat only because of a goalkeeping blunder in the closing minutes which presented Gaston Taument with a barely-deserved Dutch winner.**

**Dutch coach Dick Advocaat admitted: "It was very difficult for us in the first half. We had trouble controlling the game in the opening 30 minutes.**

**"Saudi Arabia played better than us and it was only after that period that we were able to start to create any chances and to play any better. The second half was very different. We played much more aggressively and we outplayed them and created a lot of chances. In the end I felt it was a fair result."**

**Saudi coach Jorge Solari said: "Everyone thought Holland would win but they found it a**

June 19 = Citrus Bowl, Orlando

**BELGIUM 1 MOROCCO 0**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Degryse 11* | | |
| Preud'homme | 1 | Azmi |
| Grun | 2 | Abdellah |
| De Wolf | 3 | Triki |
| Smidts | 4 | Hababi |
| Staelens | 5 | El Hadrioui |
| Van der Elst | 6 | Naybet |
| Degryse | 7 | El Haddaoui |
| Scifo | 8 | Azzouzi |
| Boffin | 9 | Alaoui |
| Weber | 10 | Hadji |
| Nilis | 11 | Chaouch |
| Paul Van Himst | *Coach* | Abdeliah Blinda |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 60,790. **Ref:** Torres Cadena (Col)

***Substitutions:*** Emmers for Nilis (53mins), Borkelmans for Boffin (84mins), Bahja for El Haddaoui (68mins), Samadi for Chaouch (81mins), Alaoui for Azmi (88mins).

***Booked:*** Grun & Weber (Belgium), Naybet, Daoudi & Azzouzi (Morocco).

## VAN HIMST HAPPY IN THE HEAT

**BELGIUM made a pleasing start for coach Paul Van Himst after all the fuss and pre-event excuses about the heat and humidity.**

**They were well worth their victory and could have scored more. Yet, paradoxically, Morocco were unlucky not to score at least twice when only the goal frame defied their best efforts.**

**The Belgians began by spreading out their midfield and defensive net across the pitch in their usual way. A marked difference in their approach was an unusual willingness to go forward, a direct result, it appeared, of having a proven goal-grabber, Weber, in their line-up at long last.**

**Degryse shot narrowly wide after seven minutes then headed Belgium in front three minutes later after the Moroccan defence made a hash of clearing a long cross from the left by Scifo, thus allowing Weber to knock the ball back to the edge of the six-yard box.**

**Belgium might have had a second in the 20th minute. Again a long cross from the left was Morocco's undoing but this time, though Scifo's header was goalbound, it was blocked by**

Determination . . . Triki (left) and Degryse.

**Weber, ahead of him, and fell wide. Nilis was next with a near miss, skipping in through the non-existent left-side defence but being foiled by Azmi's trailing foot as the goalkeeper dived**

- Holland were at the finals with only 21 players. Defender **JOHN DE WOLF** *(left)* was sent home, having turned up for preparation significantly over playing weight and then having torn a muscle in training.
- Belgium's **MICHEL PREUD'HOMME**, the outstanding goalkeeper of the first round, is leaving Mechelen to play in Portugal for Benfica.
- Saudi defender **MOHAMMAD ABDUL JAWAD** denied reports that the players had each received a Mercedes car and $100,000 for reaching the World Cup finals. He said: "It was only $25,000 each and, anyway, we were not playing for money but for national pride, for the Arab world and for Islam."
- Belgium goalkeeper **MICHEL PREUD'HOMME** used to wear a Standard Liege shirt — his first club — under his jersey for good luck. But in the heat of the United States, he was forced to abandon this policy.
- When **SAUDI ARABIA** beat **MOROCCO** 2-1 in New York, they won the first-ever all-Arab clash in the World Cup finals, and became only the second Asian side to win a World Cup finals match, following North Korea's 1-0 win over Italy in 1966.

## GROUP E – FINAL TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **F1** Holland | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| **F2** Saudi Arabia | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| **F3** Belgium | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| F4 Morocco | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 |

**LEADING SCORER:** 2 Amin (Saudi Arabia).
**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 361,653.
**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 66,275.

**lot more difficult than expected. They had the experience to fight back and to win. That was the difference."**

**Saudi Arabia went ahead after 18 minutes when Faud Amin headed in a free-kick. They might even have extended their lead before Holland equalised five minutes into the second half through Jonk.**

**Disaster struck three minutes from time when Saudi goakeeper Mohammed Al Deayea rushed to the edge of his area but, under pressure from Ronald De Boer, merely flapped at twin brother Frank's lob, thus leaving substitute Taument, the 24-year-old Feyenoord winger, with a simple header.**

**Last autumn, in the final Asian play-off round, the Saudis sacked coach Jose Candido when he ignored an instruction from Prince Faisal, who also heads the Saudi federation, to substitute Al Deayea midway through the match against Iraq. Perhaps the Prince was not such a bad judge.**

**the wrong way. The nearest Morocco went was in the 41st minute, when Chaouch struck a shot against Preud'homme's bar, out of the blue. Chaouch again went within inches of an equaliser in the 67th minute when Preud'homme tipped his header against the angle and smiled in relief as the rebound fell into his arms.**

**Three minutes from time Morocco created their own little niche in World Cup history when the battered Azmi had to be replaced by Alaoui — the first time the third substitute rule had been invoked.**

**Van Himst said: "Morocco were better than we had expected and we needed that world-class save from Preud'homme in the second half to survive. In the second half we played a more defensive game but we had no option: the humidity was awful. I'm soaking wet and I was only sitting on the bench"**

**Morocco coach Abdellah Blinda was reasonably happy despite the result, saying: "I thought we deserved better. Perhaps we might have done more in the second half when Belgium were getting tired. We can look forward confidently to our other two games."**

JUNE 25 = ORLANDO

## BELGIUM 1 HOLLAND 0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Albert 65* | | |
| Preud'homme | 1 | De Goey |
| Emmers | 2 | Valckx |
| Grun | 3 | Koeman |
| De Wolf | 4 | F De Boer |
| Albert | 5 | Rijkaard |
| Borkelmans | 6 | Jonk |
| Scifo | 7 | Wouters |
| Van der Elst | 8 | Taument |
| Staelens | 9 | Bergkamp |
| Degryse | 10 | Roy |
| Weber | 11 | R De Boer |
| Paul Van Himst | *Coach* | Dick Advocaat |

**HT:** 0-0, **Att:** 62,387, **Ref:** Marsiglia (Bra)

***Substitutions:*** Medved for Emmers (77mins), Smidts for Borkelmans (60mins), Overmars for Taument (63mins), Witschge for R De Boer (46mins).

***Booked:*** Borkelmans (Belgium), Wouters, Jonk, Rijkaard, Bergkamp & Witschge (Holland).

## ALBERT SHOWS DECISIVE TOUCH

**A THRILLING match in the Citrus Bowl — anything other than the usual fare between these two neighbours — ended in the narrowest possible win for Belgium and extended an air of crisis around Holland. But the Belgians owed a huge debt not only to goalscorer Philippe Albert but to goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.**

The new Benfica man looked the outstanding goalkeeper in the tournament as he flew around his goal, knocking not only the ball but opposing forwards and his own defenders out of the way when the need arose.

He had a little luck in the last minute when he tipped a drive from Overmars against his own crossbar but he had earned his good fortune.

Generally, Belgium were good value for their victory. They were well-organised in defence, with De Wolf giving an exemplary performance as sweeper, hard-working in midfield and might have had more luck in attack where some bad offside decisions robbed both Degryse and Weber of scoring opportunities.

On the other hand, Holland also fashioned plenty of chances on their way to blowing yet another big match opportunity.

The prize at stake was the group leadership and the likely prospect of staying in Orlando for the second round. That, given the heat and humidity, might be considered a mixed blessing but Belgium were pursuing it within 30 seconds of the kick-off when Weber headed a Scifo cross over the bar from close range.

Play swept from end to end. Preud'homme saved well from two Koeman free-kicks and again when Rijkaard glided through on the right. At the other end a Grun drive knocked De Goey off his feet, another Grun effort was tipped for a corner by the Feyenoord goalkeeper and Scifo put the ball in the net but saw the effort disallowed after impetuously running ahead of Weber as he crossed, and thus offside. Degryse had a close-range shot blocked by Koeman when De Goey was lured far out of his goal by Scifo then Degryse himself forced De Goey to concede a corner.

At half-time the match hung in the balance but Dutch fans might have been worred by the failure of wingers Taument and Roy to make a greater impression on the massed ranks of Belgian defenders.

Dutch boss Dick Advocaat took off Ronald De Boer at half-time, sent Bergkamp forward and introduced Rob Witschge into a more orthodox midfield position. The move very nearly paid off when Witschge was inches with an effort on the break on the hour. But when Belgium took play back down to the other end, they forced the decisive breakthrough. A Degryse corner from the left skimmed across the face of the Dutch defence and Albert drove the ball home at the far post.

Albert should have scored a second five minutes later and sewn up the game. Instead he committed an awful miss which gave Holland heart for the closing stages. They tried all they knew with Koeman and Bergkamp and substitute Overmars thundering in the shots, but Preud'homme proved equal to it all and Belgium justified their controversial top-seeding in the group.

Rotation . . . Belgium's Albert spins, shoots and scores against Holland.

# group f

Aggravation ... Belgium keeper Preud'homme screams in agony.

JUNE 29 = WASHINGTON

## BELGIUM 0 SAUDI ARABIA 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | *Owairan 5* |
| Preud'homme | 1 | Al Deayea |
| Medved | 2 | Al Khlawi |
| Albert | 3 | Zebermawi |
| De Wolf | 4 | Al Jawad |
| Smidts | 5 | Madani |
| Staelens | 6 | Al Bishi |
| Van der Elst | 7 | Jebreen |
| Boffin | 8 | Saleh |
| Scifo | 9 | Mohammad |
| Degryse | 10 | Owairan |
| Wilmots | 11 | Falatah |
| Paul Van Himst | *Coach* | Jorge Solari |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 52,959. **Ref:** Krug (Ger).

***Substitutions:*** Nilis for Degryse (23mins), Weber for Wilmots (53mins), Al Dosari for Owairan (61mins), Al Muwallid for Mohammad (46mins).

***Booked:*** Smidts & Scifo (Belgium), Madani & Falatah (Saudi Arabia).

## OWAIRAN HITS A BEAUTY

**THE FOOTBALL of African and Arab had everything to celebrate after Saudi Arabia, in the finals for the first time, not only beat Belgium by one goal but might have inflicted an even grander humiliation on the team who had started the day as group leaders and favourites to return to Orlando as winners.**

**Along the way, Saeed Owairan also scored one of the finest individual goals seen in the finals, beating four players on a mazy run from inside his own half.**

**The goal came after only five minutes when Owairan burst from an unmarked position in his own half to carve open the Belgian rearguard with a spectacular run and emphatic finishing shot.**

**It was the first goal conceded by Belgium in the tournament and it was a goal worthy of winning any game. It ensured the Saudis of qualifying for the second round. Belgium, who had already qualified, finished third in the group. But the Dutch won the group by virtue of having beaten the Saudis 2-1 in their head-to head meeting.**

**For Belgium, it was a huge disappointment as their coach Paul Van Himst had pinned his hopes on avoiding defeat to win the group and stay in Orlando. But they missed a series of great chances after dominating for long periods. Saudi Arabia, as they had in their previous games, frustrated the Belgians with their tactics and their counter-attacking game frequently threatened to produce a second goal.**

JUNE 25 = NEW JERSEY

## SAUDI ARABIA 2 MOROCCO 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Al Jaber 8 (pen), Amin 45* | | *Chaouch 27* |
| Al Deayea | 1 | Azmi |
| Al Khlawi | 2 | Abdellah |
| Al Jawad | 3 | El Khalej |
| Al Anazi | 4 | Triki |
| Madani | 5 | Naybet |
| Amin | 6 | Azzouzi |
| Al Bishi | 7 | El Hadrioui |
| Al Muwallid | 8 | Daoudi |
| Jebreen | 9 | Hababi |
| Owairan | 10 | Chaouch |
| Al Jaber | 11 | Bahja |
| Jorge Solari | *Coach* | Abdellah Blinda |

**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 72,404. **Ref:** Don (Eng).

***Substitutions:*** Zebermawi for Al Anazi (29mins), Al Ghesheyan for Al Jaber (79mins), El Ghrissi for Abdellah (56mins), Hadji for Hababi (72mins).

***Booked:*** Amin, Al Muwallid, Jebreen & Al Deayea (Saudi Arabia), El Hadrioui & Naybet (Morocco).

JUNE 29 = ORLANDO

## MOROCCO 1 HOLLAND 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Nader 46* | | *Bergkamp 42, Roy 79* |
| Alaoui | 1 | De Goey |
| Samadi | 2 | Valckx |
| Negrouz | 3 | Koeman |
| Triki | 4 | F De Boer |
| El Hadrioui | 5 | Winter |
| Bouyboub | 6 | Jonk |
| El Khalej | 7 | Wouters |
| Azzouzi | 8 | Witschge |
| Hababi | 9 | Overmars |
| Nader | 10 | Bergkamp |
| Bahja | 11 | Van Vossen |
| Abdellah Blinda | *Coach* | Dick Advocaat |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 60,578. **Ref:** Tejada (Peru)

***Substitutions:*** Hadji for Bouyboub (46mins), Daoudi for Azzouzi (62mins), Taument for Overmars (57mins), Roy for Van Vossen (68mins).

***Booked:*** Nader, El Khalej, Bouyboub, Hababi & Samadi (Morocco), Wouters & Koeman (Holland).

## SAUDIS SPRING A MAJOR SHOCK

**WORLD Cup newcomers Saudi Arabia scored their first win in the finals with a surprise victory over Morocco eventually presented by another blunder from Moroccan goalkeeper-captain Khalil Azmi. Midfielder Fuad Anwar Amin blasted the historic goal in the 45th minute, his long-range shot swerving in the air and bouncing through the centre of goal off Azmi's left wrist.**

**Earlier the Saudis had silenced the pro-Moroccan crowd of 72,404 in Giants Stadium by taking a seventh-minute lead. Al Jaber, deputising for injured star Majed Mohammad, was brought down by Moroccan stopper Naybet and got up to convert the penalty.**

**Morocco came back strongly and equalised through French-based striker Chaouch, who tapped home in the 27th minute after some superb creative work on the left by Bahja.**

**But they could not turn pressure into more goals and were stunned by Amin's strike. Saudi goalkeeper Al Deayea performed heroics in the second half to preserve the historic win, which lifted his team into second place in the group, above Holland by virtue of goals scored, and presented an opportunity for further progress.**

## SUCH A TRIAL FOR HOLLAND

**HOLLAND'S World Cup had been a chapter of accidents. First the Van Basten injury; then the Gullit walk-out; then the World Cup matches themselves with an embarrassingly awkward victory over Saudi Arabia and a defeat by Belgium which was a disppointing result from what must have been judged another below-par performance.**

Now, if there is one match a talented but ill-starred team hates, it is playing a team of talented no-hopers with nothing to lose. That was precisely the position in which Dick Advocaat's men found themselves in.

Holland needed to win to be certain of a place in the second round; the Moroccans needed to win to revive their morale and gain a fingertip's chance of progress.

Morocco's enthusiasm for the cause meant that four Moroccans were booked in the first 27 minutes plus Wouters — thus ruling him out of the second round — and then Morocco's Samadi just to round off the disciplinary activity shortly before half-time.

Goal chances were few and far between, but it was Holland who eventually took the lead, in the 42nd minute, when Van Vossen cut in from the left and provided Bergkamp with a glimpse of an opening. He lit on the ball with real aggression and clipped it home from close range as two Moroccans and the goalkeeper fell all over each other in defensive confusion.

Morocco's Hadji stepped into the game half a minute after the restart and profited from the wide open space awaiting him to dash down the right and cross for Nader to shoot Morocco level.

At this stage news had arrived from Washington that the unthinkable was happening: Saudi Arabia were beating Belgium. This had serious consequences for Holland because it now established the Saudis as serious rivals to be added into the confusing survival equation.

In the 79th minute new Nottingham Forest winger Roy found space in the centre of the goalmouth to convert a short cross from Bergkamp into the winning goal.

Precariously now, Holland sat on top of the group — level on points with the Saudis and Belgium on goal difference but with more goals scored than the Belgians and the head-to-head advantage over the Saudis. Suddenly Holland were cast in the guise of group winners. It could so easily have been otherwise. It only needed the Saudis to score again — and did they come close! — or for Morocco to equalise to change things.

Daoudi had a powerful free-kick from 30 yards tipped away by De Goey and then a drive from El Hadrioui on the right was deflected and De Goey changed direction for another fine finger-tip rescue. But Holland, somehow, survived to fight a second-round day.

# Basque way rewards Clemente

Cover up . . . Luis Enrique reveals a new celebration routine after his goal against Switzerland in Washington.

**SPAIN have always suffered, as a national team, by comparison with their country's great club sides. This team had yet to break that spell. They had stumbled through the first round, throwing away a two-goal lead against South Korea, holding the Germans, yet needing a controversial penalty to help them step over the homeward-bound Bolivians.**

Coach Javier Clemente had called on a nucleus from Barcelona but his team played with none of Barcelona's deft one-touch football. Rather, they resembled the rugged, honest, no-nonsense football of the Basque country from which Clemente learned the game.

As for Switzerland, they had surprised themselves by getting to the finals in the first place. Reaching the second round from a lottery of an opening group was a significant achievement for a national team who, against Romania, had won their first World Cup finals match in 40 years.

Manager Roy Hodgson deserved enormous credit. But to go further he probably would have accepted that a little luck was necessary — and he was denied that when injury ruled out Sutter, the blond-haired midfielder-turned-winger who had so upset both the United States and Colombia.

The opening exchanges in the RFK Stadium were crisp and even. Knup headed a Chapuisat cross over the bar in the second bar while Hierro belted a free-kick narrowly wide of Pascolo's goal at the other end after a trip on the ever-more-confident Luis Enrique.

Back to the Spanish goal area and Pascolo's opposite number, Zubizarreta, flipped a shot by the advancing Bickel over the bar on yet another dangerous cross from the ubiquitous Chapuisat.

Oddly, it was a further attacking move by Chapuisat which ended with in Spain taking the lead. Chapuisat turned up in the centre to lead another charge towards the Spanish goal when he was block-tackled by Nadal, back with enormous influence at the heart of the Spanish defensive effort after his two-match suspension.

Was it a foul? Referee Van der Ende did not think so and Hierro carried the ball through the circle, found a hair's breadth gap between four defenders and dashed into open country before, from 25 yards out, sliding a low, perfectly-judged shot beyond Pascolo's left hand. While the Spaniards celebrated, Chapuisat was helped off for treatment to bruised legs.

At this stage Switzerland were regularly pulling gaps in the Spanish defence but found Zubizarreta in defiant mood.

Four minutes into the second half Spain should have been 2-0 ahead. Switzerland were caught committed to attack, and Ferrer raced into the penalty box, with the defence wide open. His low square cross was perfectly weighted but Goikoetxea, cruising through the centre unmarked, side-footed his shot against Pascolo's right-hand post.

Switzerland had no option but to commit men to attack but the more they poured forward the fewer chances they created. Spain regrouped much more tightly and effectively in the centre of defence and used the pace of Sergi to good effect on the left wing. But even Zubizarreta needed the odd stroke of luck. In the 65th minute Studer, the substitute left-back, crossed from the left and Knup lunging forward beyond the penalty spot, caught the ball with his knee. It cannoned off, heading for the roof of the net, but Zubizarreta — with an astonishing reflex action — thrust up a hand to propel the ball away for a corner.

The outcome was settled in the 73rd minute when Luis Enrique, sent clear by Sergi, beat Pascolo easily to make it 2-0. Twelve more minutes and substitute Beguiristain added a penalty after Pascolo brought down Ferrer. Switzerland were on their way home but with every reason to take great pride in their World Cup campaign.

# BELGIUM'S FORTUNE RUNS OUT

**IN "European" conditions — cold, wind and rain — Germany brought in veteran Rudi Voller for his first start of the finals, stepped up their game by two levels on class and won more easily than the final score suggests.**

They lived a little dangerously in the closing minutes, and Belgium had pulled within one goal in the final seconds, but they might have scored more goals earlier.

Certainly, after the disappointing first round displays and then the abrupt dismissal of Stefan Effenberg from the squad, this was evidence that it was "business as usual" for the World Cup holders.

Coach Berti Vogts brought in Helmer as the replacement for Effenberg but placed him as one of his two stoppers alongside Kohler. The great beneficiary was Voller. Previously, Vogts had not dared start him, believing that in the heat Voller would run out of legs by half-time. But in the cool weather, he was in his element. So, more to the point, was Klinsmann. He prefers to play off a target man, because he enjoys dropping back to gain the depth of action in which to make his ungainly pace count. He and Voller on the rampage can be a terrifying sight for defenders and within 11 minutes a match which had all the makings of a tight chess battle had opened out, with the Germans 2-1 ahead.

Voller opened the scoring from close range in the first attack. One minute later, dropping back to help out in defence, he missed a header and thus provided Grun with the opportunity to thump an equaliser.

Four more minutes and Germany were back in front. Klinsmann dashed from deep, laid the ball off to Voller and strode forward onto the centre forward's back-heel to rifle a vicious drive beyond Preud'homme.

Wagner, brought in for Brehme, and Albert joined the yellow card set before Preud'homme tipped a Voller header away for a corner. Hassler took the kick and, with Preud'homme hesitating, Voller headed in.

Matthaus, who had needed a painkilling injection in the ankle he injured against South Korea, had refused a second jab at half-time, preferring to step out of the game to make sure he would be fit for the quarter-final. Brehme thus came out to take his place as sweeper.

On the up . . . a challenge by Emmers (15) deceives Voller.

JULY 2 = CHICAGO

## GERMANY 3 — BELGIUM 2

*Voller 6, 40, Klinsmann 11* — *Grun 8, Albert 90*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Illgner | 1 | Preud'homme |
| Helmer | 2 | Grun |
| Matthaus | 3 | Albert |
| Kohler | 4 | De Wolf |
| Berthold | 5 | Smidts |
| Buchwald | 6 | Staelens |
| Hassler | 7 | Van der Elst |
| Sammer | 8 | Emmers |
| Wagner | 9 | Scifo |
| Voller | 10 | Nilis |
| Klinsmann | 11 | Weber |
| Berti Vogts | *Coach* | Paul Van Himst |

**HT:** 3-1. **Att:** 60,246. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)
***Substitutions:*** Brehme for Matthaus (46mins), Kuntz for Klinsmann (85mins), Boffin for Smidts (65mins), Czerniatynski for Nilis (77mins).
***Booked:*** Helmer & Wagner (Germany), Albert (Belgium).

JULY 2 = WASHINGTON

## SPAIN 3 — SWITZERLAND 0

*Hierro 15, Luis Enrique 74, Beguiristain 87*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Zubizarreta | 1 | Pascolo |
| Alkorta | 2 | Hottiger |
| Nadal | 3 | Herr |
| Camarasa | 4 | Geiger |
| Ferrer | 5 | Quentin |
| Abelardo | 6 | Ohrel |
| Hierro | 7 | Sforza |
| Bakero | 8 | Bregy |
| Sergi | 9 | Bickel |
| Goikoetxea | 10 | Knup |
| Luis Enrique | 11 | Chapuisat |
| Javier Clemente | *Coach* | Roy Hodgson |

**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 53,121. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol).
***Substitutions:*** Otero for Hierro (75mins), Beguiristain for Goikoetxea (60mins), Studer for Quentin (57mins), Subiat for Ohrel (72mins).
***Booked:*** Ferrer, Camarasa, Goikoetxea & Otero (Spain), Hottiger, Studer, Subiat & Pascolo (Switzerland).

JULY 3 = DALLAS

## SAUDI ARABIA 1 — SWEDEN 3

*Al Ghesheyan 85* — *Dahlin 5, K Andersson 50, 87*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Al Deayea | 1 | Ravelli |
| Zebermawi | 2 | Nilsson |
| Madani | 3 | P Andersson |
| Al Jawad | 4 | Bjorklund |
| Al Khlawi | 5 | Ljung |
| Al Jaber | 6 | Brolin |
| Amin | 7 | Thern |
| Saleh | 8 | Schwarz |
| Owairan | 9 | Ingesson |
| Al Bishi | 10 | Dahlin |
| Falatah | 11 | K Andersson |
| Jorge Solari | *Coach* | Tommy Svensson |

**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 60,277. **Ref:** Marsiglia (Bra)
***Substitutions:*** Al Ghesheyan for Al Jawad (54mins), Al Muwallid for Al Bishi (62mins), Mild for Thern (69mins), Kamark for Bjorklund (54mins).
***Booked:*** Al Muwallid (Saudi Arabia), Ljung, Thern & Nilsson (Sweden).

JULY 3 = PASADENA

## ROMANIA 3 — ARGENTINA 2

*Dumitrescu 11, 18, Hagi 56* — *Batistuta 16 (pen) Balbo 75*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Prunea | 1 | Islas |
| Prodan | 2 | Sensini |
| Belodedici | 3 | Caceres |
| Lupescu | 4 | Ruggeri |
| Petrescu | 5 | Chamot |
| Selymes | 6 | Basualdo |
| Popescu | 7 | Simeone |
| Munteanu | 8 | Redondo |
| Mihali | 9 | Ortega |
| Hagi | 10 | Batistuta |
| Dumitrescu | 11 | Balbo |
| Anghel Iordanescu | *Coach* | Alfio Basile |

**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 90,469. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita)
***Substitutions:*** Gilca for Hagi (86mins), Papura for Dumitrescu (85mins), Medina Bello for Sensini (63mins).
***Booked:*** Popescu, Selymes & Dumitrescu (Romania), Ruggeri, Redondo, Chamot & Caceres (Argentina).

# SOLARI SURGE IS STOPPED

Going down . . . Sweden's Brolin falls after a Saudi tackle

SWEDEN reached the quarter-finals, but defeating the original rank outsiders of Saudi Arabia cost them buckets of sweat in the midday heat. You could read the players' minds, thinking more and more of the comparatively long break which would be their prize.

Saudi Arabia had earned new respect. Argentinian coach Jorge Solari and his assistant and brother Eduardo had worked superbly in adjusting to the temperament of their players and giving them the encouragement, self-belief and organisational level to deal with a mixture of opponents.

After their excellent displays against Holland and Belgium it was no wonder the Saudis were quietly hopeful. But the Swedes were an underrated team.

They had been playing together in a block for three years, had the inner assurance provided by their semi-final appearance as hosts in the European Championship in 1992, held their tactical shape rigidly, and concentrated on doing the simple things well. They were an object lesson for any student of the game.

Winning matches at World Cup level, of course, demands more than these basic virtues. It demands the extra fizz and aggression which turns good football into goals and, in Dahlin, the Swedes had such a man.

Kennet Andersson stayed up front to partner Dahlin and Brolin dropped back to an orthodox position wide on the right in midfield. The new attacking partnership turned up the goods after only five minutes. Andersson slung over a cross from the left and Dahlin rose at the far post to head home.

That was exactly what coach Svensson would have wished for starters. But later on he would not have been as happy when his men reached half-time with only the one goal to show for their general control. Too many attacking passes went to waste as the Saudis learned their lesson and started to cover at the back and in midfield with a great deal more purpose.

Sweden did create further openings. Ingesson, after a little exhibition of ballet dancing, volleyed wide in the 14th minute and Kennet Andersson bludgeoned his way in from the right wing in the 21st, only for the erratic Al Deayea to dive at his feet.

Sweden were clearly fading fast in the heat as half-time approached. They hit long balls forward and across the pitch without anyone having the legs to chase them and it was just as well for them that they scored a second goal five minutes after the interval.

The Saudi defence was still thanking the fortune which caused Ingesson to shoot wide of an open goal — after a superb right-wing break by Brolin — when Kennet Andersson won an aerial duel with Al Khlawi, took two strides across the front of the defence and shot back inside Al Deayea's left-hand post.

All credit to the Saudis. They did not give up, and the introduction of attacking substitutes Al Ghesheyan and Al Muwallid inspired them.

Al Muwallid had a drive tipped over by Ravelli and, when the corner was knocked back, Ingesson cleared off the line with a header over his own bar.

Then Al Ghesheyan gained a deserved reward for his endeavour when he turned Ljung inside out and hammered an angled shot up into the far top corner.

One goal down, with five minutes to go, Saudi piled men forward and were caught by a classic counter-punch. A flowing move through the centre involving Brolin and Dahlin ended with Kennet Andersson taking deliberate aim and firing in off a post.

Saudi Arabia went home with honour . . . to find a new Volvo each, donated by an enthusiastic fan, to add to the Mercedes they were given for qualifying.

Belgium failed, initially, to test the newcomer and thus Germany might have gone further ahead on the hour when Klinsmann volleyed for the top corner only to be thwarted by Preud'homme's athletic leap.

Nine more minutes and a further Klinsmann effort, this time at the climax of a flowing move between Sammer and Hassler, was deflected over the bar by the outstanding Belgian goalkeeper. In the 72nd minute, when even Preud'homme had been founded by the galloping Klinsmann, sweeper De Wolf came to the rescue with a goal-line clearance.

Time for more substitutes. Belgium brought on Czerniatynski — who last played in the World Cup finals in 1982 — for the ineffective Nilis and Germany sent on Kuntz for the hyperactive Klinsmann. Klinsmann walked off to an ovation from the German fans and responded by applauding them in turn — what a difference one match had made after the Effenberg incident.

Kuntz missed from close range in the 88th minute and it could have proved a costly failure because Albert stepped nimbly over two attempted tackles to score. In injury time the Belgians threw everything and everybody forward. Even Preudh'homme charged up for a corner. But the Germans hung on and were well worth their victory. It was not achieved, however, without controversy.

In the 76th minute Weber had broken through the centre of the German defence and into the penalty box when he was pulled down from behind by Helmer. It was not only a clear penalty offence, it should have earned Helmer a red card from Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger. Instead, inexplicably, he waved play on.

FIFA president Joao Havelange had promised that referees guilty of such bizarre errors would be sent home. True to his word, Rothlisberger was sent packing soon after the match.

Belgium lost but not only did they contribute in full measure to a superb match, they lost with grace. Not an easy combination in a World Cup.

# ILIE ADDS TO ALFIO'S GLOOM

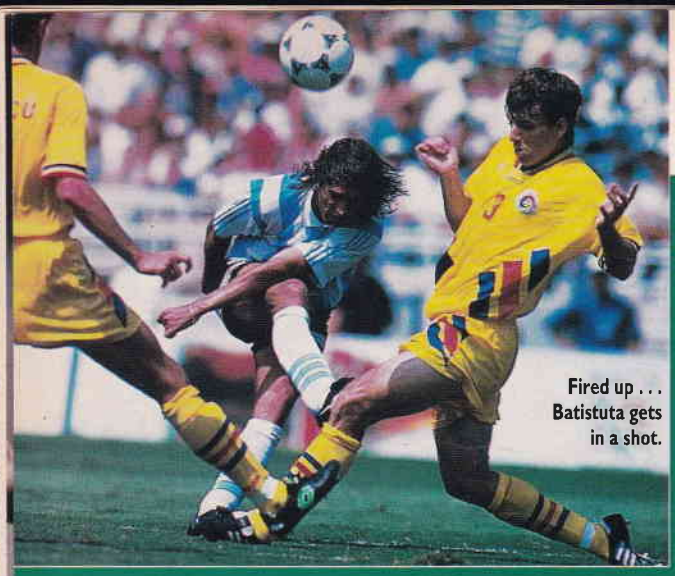
**THE WORST three days in Argentinian football history ended with their exit from the World Cup finals in Pasadena . . . where Diego Maradona had envisaged crowning his roller-coaster comeback.**

Not that Argentina expected to fly the breadth of the US so early in the tournament. Certainly they had never expected to do so amid quite such controversy.

On top of all that, irony of ironies, Argentina without Maradona were no match for Gheorghe Hagi — the so-called "Maradona of the Carpathians" — and two-goal Ilie Dumitrescu.

Maradona's disgraced departure had left coach Alfio Basile back in full charge of Argentina's destiny. Before the match he said: "The business with Diego made a great impact on our team but now we have to move on." Defeat, unfortunately, means that Basile probably will be moving on sooner rather than later.

Basile had believed that the defeat by Bulgaria was a one-off event but it hardly resolved his dilemma over



Fired up . . . Batistuta gets in a shot.

who should step into an attacking midfield role. Losing Maradona and Caniggia would prove too much for any team at any level, let alone Argentina in the second round of the World Cup finals. Their makeshift line-up tried as best they could but their short-term, emergency best was just not good enough.

The tactical contrast was intriguing. Romania play with a net of six men strung across midfield. They trap opposing teams just as a spider traps a fly. Argentina, by contrast, play a more openly obvious 4-4-2 system. This meant, on the face of it, that Argentina would be outnumbered in the key areas of midfield and attack. Thus their ability to construct a breakthrough would depend on individual inspiration.

Without Maradona and Caniggia, they lacked the arms for the job. Also, Romania had four days more in which to prepare for this match in the Rose Bowl cauldron and that, in itself, was not an insignificant factor.

Coach Iordanescu decided to replace the suspended Raducioiu by redeploying the erratic Dumitrescu, who had scored nine goals in Romania's previous eight internationals. He struck twice in the first half and created a third for Hagi.

Dumitrescu's curling free-kick from out on the left deceived Islas just as Hagi had made a fool of Colombia's Cordoba. Five minutes later Batistuta equalised with a penalty after he had been manhandled by Prodan, but Romania struck again two minutes afterwards. Dumitrescu cut trough the middle and fed Hagi out on the right. Hagi sliced the defence apart with a pass which Dumitrescu, running on across the face of goal, tucked neatly inside the near post.

On the stroke of half-time, Caceres cleared off the line to deny Dumitrescu a hat-trick with Islas beaten following a typically dynamic Romanian counter attack.

Hagi put Romania 3-1 ahead with their first real attack of the second half. Selymes broke down the left and squared the ball to Dumitrescu. He flicked the ball intelligently to his right into Hagi's path, and he scored with a glorious, rising right-foot shot.

Argentina's increasingly desperate attacks paid off in the 75th minute when Simeone dribbled forward from the centre circle, Prunea failed to hold on to his drive and Balbo thumped home the rebound. After that, somehow, the Romanians hung on.

Iordanescu said: "This is the greatest event celebrated by our people since the Revolution. It's also the greatest moment in our soccer history."

A downcast Basile described the game as a "very difficult one." He added: "We played well after they scored their third goal but by then it was too late."

Maradona, in the crowd as a match analyst for the Argentinian TV station, *Channel 13*, said: "I don't think the boys are to blame. They did all they could. They were mentally shattered by everything that happened. Romania didn't beat us on the pitch. We were beaten off the pitch, and that is what hurts."

# CLASS TELLS AFTER ALL

THE AMERICAN dream came to a low-key end at Stanford Stadium. They scrapped and chased but Brazil's far superior class and technique won the day.

The fact that Brazil won only 1-0 and had Leonardo sent off demonstrates perhaps quite how effectively the hosts got beneath the favourites' skin.

The Americans had Clavijo sent off late in he second half. But by then the result was assured. Indeed, only once did the Americans go within serious range of the Brazilian goal. The attacking pace of Stewart and Jones added up to nothing of serious consequence.

But nothing could diminish the sense of achievement felt by players and officials even in defeat. Balboa, having played his record 94th and last game for the national team, said: "We gave everything we could on the field. I threw the crowd my boots at the end by way of saying thank you to everyone for coming out to back us. People who knew nothing of soccer now understand the passion this sport brings."

Few doubted that the Brazilians would win with rather more to spare if the two teams were to meet again on neutral territory under less emotive circumstances than the July 4, Independence Day, holiday.

The US, backed by a partisan crowd of more than 84,000, went close on only one occasion, Dooley's low shot drifting just past the post in the 12th minute after Ramos's pass outsmarted the Brazilian offside trap.

Brazil started to put some good moves together only after a nervous first 20 minutes. The Americans relied on their quick counter-attacks and Balboa marshalled the defence superbly alongside Lalas. But the

Game's up . . . Bebeto scores and US are out.

Brazilians, led by captain Dunga in midfield and Romario in attack, continued to go at the Americans and gave their forwards hardly a sniff at goal.

Brazil were reduced to 10 men for the entire second half when Leonardo was sent off in the 43rd minute for elbowing Ramos, who suffered a minor skull fracture, and was replaced by Wynalda.

The South Americans, despite being a man down, still dominated much of the day and Bebeto's 74th-minute goal was enough to spoil the Independence Day celebrations. Bebeto coolly drove the ball home after Romario had split open the defence with a darting run and pin-point pass which found his striking partner in space inside the penalty area.

The Americans also had a player sent off but by then their cause was almost lost. Clavijo received his marching orders for a second bookable offence in the 85th minute after he brought down Romario. The Brazilian striker, who had scored in all three group matches failed to get on the sheet but gave an inspirational performance. Having hit a post in the last minute of the first half he drew a superb, diving save from Meola at the end of the second after dancing his way through the US defence.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said: "I always expected a difficult match. The Americans had qualified on merit. They have nine players who took part in the last World Cup and eight who play in Europe."

US coach Bora Milutinovic said he was sad to go out of the tournament but happy with the effort put in by his players. He added: "It's not the first time a team one man down has beaten us. But we said our goodbyes in a great atmosphere and I think the players have done something truly spectacular."

# BONNER'S SADDEST SLIP

**THE CITRUS BOWL in Orlando was oddly quiet considering the excitement and hurrah which Dutch and Irish fans brought to the World Cup.**

Perhaps both felt they had good reason: the Dutch may have been apprehensive after the messy first round their team had served up while the Irish may have had forebodings about what was to come.

Cloud cover meant the last World Cup match in the Citrus Bowl was not roasted in the usual sun. But that was perhaps deceptive. Temperature down on the pitch was, nevertheless, 90degrees and the humidity level increased steadily.

Deceptive conditions and deceptive performances. Positive from the Dutch, negative from the Irish. Holland played much their best match of the finals, settling back on a more conservative 4-3-3 system.

Winter switched to right-back out of midfield but with specicial responsibility to stop Staunton's breaking up the wing from the Irish midfield. Advocaat partnered Koeman and Valckx in the centre of defence with Frank De Boer now shading left out of centre. In midfield, to cover the absence of the suspended Wouters, Rijkaard was back. Up front Overmars started the match on the right with Van Vossen wide on the left: both enjoyed their best afternoons to date.

The tactical games coaches play! Jack Charlton had clearly given precise thought to how Holland would play and how best to counter them. Irwin and Phelan were clear of suspensions to resume as full-backs but Charlton, overlooking Irwin's all-round ability, put his faith in the pace of Phelan as better equipped to keep pace with Overmars. Gary Kelly, impressive against Norway, stayed at right-back.

In the event both Phelan and Kelly were roasted, not so much by the heat as by their opponents. Just 10 minutes had gone when Overmars burst into match-winning life and gave dramatic warning of what a torrid time awaited the luckless Phelan. The full-back misjudged a headed backpass which dropped off his head to Overmars, who took one-touch control and was away. With Phelan left for dead it was up to McGrath to try to cut off the danger. He lacked the pace, too, and the winger deftly laid the ball square for Bergkamp to score.

Ireland appeared to be forging a path back into the match when they threw away another goal. An area of the pitch usually over-populated by the Irish was suddenly revealed as empty of resistance and Jonk shot from about 30 yards. Bonner, perhaps already thinking about what to do with the ball when he caught it, appeared to let his concentration lapse: instead of getting his body behind the ball he flapped at it and the power took it bouncing off his arms, over his hands and behind him into the net.

Bonner pounded the pitch with his fists in embarrassment and fury, accentuated by the realisation that Ireland were now into uncharted territory. They had never scored more than one goal in a match in the World Cup finals and this attacking failure was crucial.

The "pack tactic" may have proved successful in preventing opponents scoring and wearing them down in midfield but it offers little by way of attacking options. Ireland now had to chase the game and none of their strategies fitted the bill.

The remainder of the match followed a predictable script. The Irish poured forward with increasing desperation, to no effect.

Bonner, Ireland's penalty-stopping hero in the 1990 World Cup, said: "I still don't know what went wrong. I feel so sorry for all the fans. I hope they realise you don't go out there intending to make mistakes."

Charlton said: "Packie didn't have to say anything and I didn't have to say anything to him. He knows what he did and so does Terry Phelan. You can't make two basic mistakes like that against the Dutch.

"We've kept going, though, and in the end I can't ask any more from the lads than what they've given us. We have some good players, but we know we are short in a few departments.

"The European Championship in 1996? You'll have to give me some time to think about that."

JULY 4 = ORLANDO

## HOLLAND 2 — REP IRELAND 0

*Bergkamp 11, Jonk 41*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| De Goey | 1 | Bonner |
| Winter | 2 | G Kelly |
| Valckx | 3 | McGrath |
| Koeman | 4 | Babb |
| F De Boer | 5 | Phelan |
| Rijkaard | 6 | Houghton |
| Jonk | 7 | Keane |
| Witschge | 8 | Sheridan |
| Overmars | 9 | Townsend |
| Bergkamp | 10 | Staunton |
| Van Vossen | 11 | Coyne |
| Dick Advocaat | *Coach* | Jack Charlton |

**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 61,355. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
***Substitutions:*** Numan for Witschge (78mins), Roy for Van Vossen (69mins), McAteer for Staunton (62mins), Cascarino for Coyne (73mins).
***Booked:*** Koeman (Holland).

JULY 4 = PALO ALTO

## BRAZIL 1 — UNITED STATES 0

*Bebeto 74*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Taffarel | 1 | Meola |
| Jorginho | 2 | Clavijo |
| Aldair | 3 | Balboa |
| Marcio Santos | 4 | Lalas |
| Leonardo | 5 | Caligiuri |
| Mazinho | 6 | Ramos |
| Mauro Silva | 7 | Dooley |
| Dunga | 8 | Perez |
| Zinho | 9 | Sorber |
| Bebeto | 10 | Jones |
| Romario | 11 | Stewart |
| Carlos Perreira | *Coach* | Bora Milutinovic |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 84,147. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
***Substitutions:*** Cafu for Zinho (68mins), Wynalda for Ramos (46mins), Wegerle for Perez (65mins).
***Booked:*** Mazinho & Jorginho (Brazil), Clavijo, Dooley, Caligiuri & Ramos (US).
***Sent off:*** Leonardo (44mins), Clavijo (87mins).

JULY 5 = FOXBORO

## NIGERIA 1 — ITALY 2

*Amunike 27* — *R Baggio 88, 102 (pen)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rufai | 1 | Marchegiani |
| Eguavon | 2 | Mussi |
| Okechukwu | 3 | Costacurta |
| Nwanu | 4 | Maldini |
| Emenalo | 5 | Benarrivo |
| George | 6 | Berti |
| Oliseh | 7 | Albertini |
| Okocha | 8 | Donadoni |
| Amunike | 9 | Signori |
| Yekini | 10 | Massaro |
| Amokachi | 11 | R Baggio |
| Clemens Westerhof | *Coach* | Arrigo Sacchi |

**HT:** 1-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 54,367. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex).
***Substitutions:*** Oliha for Amunike (56mins), Adepoju for Amokachi (34mins), D Baggio for Berti (46mins), Zola for Signori (64mins).
***Booked:*** Emenalo, Adepoju, Oliseh & Nwanu (Nigeria), Massaro, Costacurta, Signori, Maldini & D Baggio (Italy)
***Sent off:*** Zola (76mins).

JULY 5 = NEW JERSEY

## MEXICO 1 — BULGARIA 1

*BULGARIA WON 3-1 ON PENS, AFTER EXTRA TIME*
*Garcia Aspe 17 (pen)* — *Stoichkov 6*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Campos | 1 | Mikhailov |
| Rodriguez | 2 | Kremenliev |
| Suarez | 3 | Borimirov |
| Ramirez Perales | 4 | Hubchev |
| R Ramirez | 5 | Kiriakov |
| Bernal | 6 | Lechkov |
| Garcia Aspe | 7 | Yordanov |
| Ambriz | 8 | Balakov |
| Luis Garcia | 9 | Stoichkov |
| Galindo | 10 | Sirakov |
| Zague | 11 | Kostadinov |
| Miguel M. Baron | *Coach* | Dimitar Penev |

**HT:** 1-1. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 71,030. **Ref:** Al Sharif (Syr)
***Substitutions:*** Guentchev for Sirakov (103mins), Mikhtarski for Kostadinov (118mins).
***Booked:*** Suarez, R Ramirez & Garcia Aspe (Mexico), Kremenliev, Sirakov, Kiriakov & Yordanov (Bulgaria).
***Sent off:*** Luis Garcia (58mins), Kremenliev (50mins).

**PENALTY SHOOT-OUT**
***(Mexico first)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Garcia Aspe *miss* **0-0** | Balakov *saved* **0-0** |
| Bernal *saved* **0-0** | Guentchev **0-1** |
| Luis Garcia *saved* **0-1** | Borimirov **0-2** |
| Suarez **1-2** | Lechkov **1-3** |

# AL SHARIF ON THE SPOT

THE EXPLODING World Cup refereeing crisis intensified as a Syrian official, who was plainly out of his depth, did his level best to ruin a dramatic evening in Giants Stadium.

Bulgaria won the first penalty shoot-out of these finals, but it speaks volumes for the professionalism of both teams that the match reached its appointed 120 minutes in comparative peace, given the nightmarish refereeing.

On the day after FIFA had banished Swiss referee Rothlisberger and Italy's Pairetto, Jamal Al Sharif manufactured two expulsions of nonsensical irrationality.

The luckless victims were Emil Kremenliev, dismissed in the 49th minute, and Luis Garcia, in the 57th, for innocuous offences which brought second yellow cards — and a red — for each.

To compound his offences against the spirit of these fun finals, Al Sharif then waved only yellow at Garcia Aspe for pulling back Lechkov. Later he angered both teams by withholding punishments for fouls which earlier might have been hanging offences.

At least Al Sharif managed to administer the shoot-out correctly, and Mexico went out just as they did in 1986, when they lost 4-1 to West Germany.

Mikhailov's decisive saves and successful shots by Guentchev, Borimirov and Lechkov meant that the quarter-finals comprised seven European nations . . . and Brazil. The last time that happened was in 1958.

Pile up . . . Bulgarian players celebrate victory.

The first half had presented problems of a different nature for Al Sharif when he was forced to halt the action for seven minutes midway through the first half after Suarez cleared off the line at the expense of the goal rigging, which had to be replaced.

The teams were level at 1-1 at the time of the interruption, with Mexico lucky to be on terms. First they went a goal down after six minutes when Stoichkov converted a through pass from Yordanov and then the right-hand post came to Campos's rescue when the goalkeeper was beaten by Kostadinov's free-kick.

Mexico drew level from a generous penalty after a tussle between Kremenliev and Zague. Garcia Aspe swept home the kick from a run-up modelled on a slow left-arm spin bowler.

Four minutes after half-time Kremenliev was shown a second yellow for a push on Garcia Aspe — the sort of decision an intimidated official might produce in front of 100,000 in Mexico City but was entirely inappropriate here. Al Sharif appeared to think so too for he evened the sending-off score eight minutes later by dismissing Luis Garcia for high kicking.

Amid all the disruption there was much to admire. Bernal and Garcia Aspe were outstanding for probably the best team Mexico have ever fielded. As for Bulgaria, the superbly-committed Stoichkov turned up in parts of the pitch he usually never sees when fixed in his striker's role with Spanish champions Barcelona.

Stoichkov had insisted his pride demanded a World Cup performance to erase memories of his anonymous European Cup Final display against Milan. With Bulgaria now in uncharted World Cup territory he appeared to achieved just that.

# ITALY KEEP CLINGING ON

NIGERIA were confident they would upset Italy and, for 88 minutes, it appeared that their self-assurance was fully justified. Comfortable on the ball, ticking over smoothly in midfield and covering with a speed and commitment which sealed off the central approaches to their own goal, they appeared to be cruising.

Then, in one of those dramatic piece of individualism which write themelves instantly into World Cup, their ambitions were turned inside out and upside down by Roberto Baggio.

After that, even though Italy had been controversially reduced to 10 men, the Nigerians never again looked like winning. Italy, having ground out a result against all the odds against Norway, were clearly more than happy about their ability to stage a repeat.

This they duly achieved, courtesy once again of Baggio, this time from the penalty spot.

The tenor of a physically punishing match was set in the first minute when Emenelo was shown the yellow card for tripping Massaro. Four more minutes and Massaro was booked for playing on after handling. So far, and for the next 20 minutes, the match was all Italy. They displayed an attacking commitment unhinted in their previous games.

Then Nigeria launched their first attack, forced their first corner and scored George launched the kick into the area, it ricocheted off Maldini's knees and Amunike struck the rebound beyond Marchegiani. Italy's frustration was immediately expressed in fouls which brought yellow cards for Albertini and Costacurta. To be a goal down at half-time was a nightmare for Italy but it was one which might have been ended a minute after the break which Signori stabbed in a short cross and Dino Baggio shot against Rufai's left-hand post.

More yellow cards and substitutions followed with Italy's surprisingly withdrawing Signori. Zola went on but lasted only 16 minutes — on his 28th birthday — before being sent off to universal amazement. What prompted Mexican referee Arturo Brizio's decision remained in doubt long after the game. Clearly, he does not like substitutes — having sent off Bolivian substitute Etcheverry against Germany.

Not that consistency appeared to be Brizio's strong point. Five minutes after Zola's dismissal Maldini, playing sweeper this time, pulled back Yekini. Brizio produced only a yellow card.

Italy threw caution, discipline, tactics and shape to the wind as time ran out. Nigeria appeared comfortable to view their opponents' desperate confusion. However, with two minutes to go, Mussi found a couple of yards of space along the edge of the penalty box and squared the ball for Roberto Baggio to slide a low shot just wide of the diving Rufai and inside the goalkeeper's right-hand post.

At the start of extra time Italy were suddenly the more composed team. This was where their ultimate professionalism, developed in the cauldron of the most high-pressure championship in Europe, paid off. Italy claimed their narrowly-deserved winner when Eguavoen climbed all over the willing Benarrivo in the box and Brizio pointed to the spot. Roberto Baggio nearly missed, but his kick went in off a post.

Nigeria had one last chance when three Eagles appeared to have the goal at their mercy, but somehow Dino Baggio cleared off the line.

A great day for the Baggios; another remarkable escape for Italy.

Up and under . . . Yekini and Maldini get in a tangle.

JULY 9 = FOXBORO

| ITALY 2 | | SPAIN 1 |
|---|---|---|
| *D Baggio 26, R Baggio 88* | | *Caminero 59* |
| Pagliuca | 1 | Zubizarreta |
| Tassotti | 2 | Alkorta |
| Costacurta | 3 | Nadal |
| Maldini | 4 | Abelardo |
| Benarrivo | 5 | Ferrer |
| Albertini | 6 | Caminero |
| D Baggio | 7 | Otero |
| Conte | 8 | Bakero |
| Donadoni | 9 | Sergi |
| Massaro | 10 | Goikoetxea |
| R Baggio | 11 | Luis Enrique |
| Arrigo Sacchi | *Coach* | Javier Clemente |

**HT:** 1-0, **Att:** 54,605, **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
***Substitutions:*** Signori for Albertini (46mins), Berti for Conte (65mins), Hierro for Bakero (64mins), Salinas for Sergi (64mins).
***Booked:*** Abelardo & Caminero (Spain).

Super 10 . . . Roberto Baggio rounds Zubizarreta to hit Italy's winner.

# ITALIANS *escape*

**THE SUPERSTAR magic of Roberto Baggio earned a semi-final date for an Italian team who, for the previous three weeks, had teetered on the brink of World Cup disaster.**

Baggio, the pony-tailed Buddhist had scored the two goals which lifted Italy to a last-gap second round victory over Nigeria four days earlier. Now, in Foxboro, it was all square at 1-1 with three minutes remaining when he arrowed clear of Spain's defence, rounded goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, and slid the ball home.

Midfielder Dino Baggio — no relation — had given Italy a first-half lead which was wiped out by a 58th-minute equaliser from Spain's top-scoring midfielder, Caminero. Extra time was looming again for Italy when the more famous Baggio struck again. Suddenly, in an amazing turnaround, Italy believed the omens were in their favour.

Sixty years ago they beat Spain in the quarter-finals and went on to win the World Cup for the first time. Now they knew their pursuit of a record fourth triumph would bring them face to face with Bulgaria or Cup-holders Germany in Giants Stadium, New Jersey.

Italy's agonised, pressurised coach Arrigo Sacchi felt the relief of knowing he had a job for at least another week. The same could not be said for Spain boss Javier Clemente, who faced a thunderstorm of criticism for taking on the out-of-form Italians with a team packed to the touchlines with defenders. Even attack leader Luis Enrique had spent much of last season at left-back or midfield for Real Madrid.

Sacchi brought back Pagliuca in goal now that he had completed the two-match suspension imposed for his historic expulsion against Norway in the first round. Even more controversially, Juventus workhorse Conte replaced the skilled but tired Signori in midfield. Of all his changes, Sacchi had greatest reason to congratulate himself on Pagliuca's return instead of Marchegiani.

Spain showed their teeth — and studs — right from the start. Defender Abelardo was lucky to be shown only a yellow card by Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl after making his mark on Roberto Baggio's right shin. Then Caminero was booked for tripping Italy's fresh, new midfielder, Conte.

Lucky 13 . . . Dino Baggio after scoring the first goal.

Italy had the better of the first-half openings. In the 13th minute Roberto Baggio had a shot luckily deflected for a corner by Ferrer, then Dino Baggio fired Italy into the lead when he collected a left-wing pass from full-back Benarrivo and swerved a 25-yard drive up beyond Zubizarreta's flailing left arm. Later Conte, clear in what used to be called the inside-right position, pulled a shot wastefully wide of Zubizarreta's left-hand post.

Caminero, striding through from midfield, provided Spain's main threat. In the 20th minute he shot straight at Pagliuca then the back-in-favour goalkeeper had to dive to his right, seven minutes later, to grab Caminero's header.

Caminero made it third time lucky when he struck Spain's equaliser 13 minutes into the second half.

Sergi crossed from the left and the unmarked Otero in the centre missed the ball completely, but Caminero was backing up and claimed his third goal of the finals, courtesy of a deflection by Benarrivo.

Suddenly, Spain were in control and it was Italy who looked uninspired. Both teams used their permitted two substitutes to counter the fatigue induced by five games apiece inside 21 days. Berti, replacing Conte, wasted a volleyed chance. Then Spanish substitute Salinas squandered an even better opportunity. Salinas, strangely out of favour with Clemente, galloped through the heart of the Italian defence to find the goal at his mercy. But somehow Pagliuca, as if jolted out of a dream, woke to stick out his left leg and deflect the shot wide.

It was the turning point. Five minutes later Roberto Baggio ran clear of the defence, rounded Zubizarreta and shot Italy into the semi-finals.

Sacchi said: "I'm delighted. Games like this are more like wars than football matches. Physically they're very tough.

"We set a good pace in the first half but we just couldn't keep it going. By the middle of the second half we were exhausted.

"I don't care who we have to play in the semi-finals. The only thing that matters is that we now have the chance to rest and relax and get our strength back."

Clemente said: "To lose like that is terrible when you consider that in the closing stages of the game we were the only team creating anything in attack. Salinas had the best chance in the entire game."

Salinas, referring to that costly late miss, said: "I'm sorry, above all for the team, for the coach and for the whole of Spain.

"That goal would have got us to the semi-final because the Italians were dead. They were too tired to move."

# BRAZIL *bounce on*

**AN EXPLOSIVE second half ended with Brazil in the semi-finals for the first time since 1970 after proving — in the line of fire — that their team really did possess not only the skill but the steel and the concentration to reach for that elusive fourth World Cup.**

The simple key to victory and defeat was seen in the changes at left-back made by both teams. Brazil had no option but to recall Branco in place of the suspended Leonardo. It was an enforced change but proved a match-winning one.

Holland manager Dick Advocaat omitted Frank De Boer to make way for Wouters, now clear of suspension. But while Wouters pulled his weight, as ever, his contribution was nowhere near as decisive.

The first half was not the treat which had been billed. Brazil played as tightly as they can, holding back their wide midfielders — Mazinho and Zinho — to support Jorginho and Branco in smothering the Dutch wing threats of Overmars and Van Vossen. Not until well into the second half did Overmars finally gain space in which to work. Van Vossen never did.

Holland could have taken the lead after 24 minutes. Aldair kicked Van Vossen and though Jonk's free-kick was too precise for the Brazilian defence, the unmarked Bergkamp headed wastefully high over the bar from six yards out. Brazil's response was not long in coming, Mauro Silva being presented with acres of space by one of those typical inter-passing moves, but driving inches wide.

That was a signal for Brazil, carefully and steadily, to increase the pressure. Bebeto and Romario began to tease Holland's pedestrian defence. Marcio Santos glanced a header narrowly wide from a Mazinho corner, and then Romario, right on half-time, shot wide from 12 yards under pressure from former PSV team-mate Valckx.

The pair's duel continued in the early minutes of the second half with Valckx again coming out the winner in the 47th minute — but a loser in the 51st minute when Bebeto crossed from the left and Romario, this time quicker to the ball than the off-balance Valckx, shot low past De Goey's left hand. Suddenly Holland were rocking. Bebeto sent an angled shot skimming across goal, and De Goey dived to save at Romario's feet.

One minute past the hour and it was no surprise when Bebeto scored Brazil's second, though Holland were furious that the linesman's flag stayed down as Romario strolled back past Koeman from an offside position just as the through ball for Bebeto flew between the two of them.

Holland had only one hope: to score quickly. And that is precisely what they did when Bergkamp picked up a throw-in, found a channel through the right flank of the Brazilian defence and cracked a shot up past Taffarel.

The match hung in the balance: Brazil's disciplined skill and flair against Holland's resurgent passion.

The bumps and bruises increased. Wouters clattered into Bebeto and Dunga was shown the yellow card for pulling Jonk's shirt. Bergkamp, displaying the determination which took him into another class, forced a corner on the left, Overmars curled his kick to the six-yard edge and Winter headed in before Taffarel could react.

Fifteen minutes to go and Brazil's World Cup-winning potential passed its test with flying colours. First Branco had a free-kick tipped over the bar by De Goey. Then he gained a second chance after being kicked to the ground by a trio of desperate defenders.

If there had been one weakness in Brazil's armoury so far it had been the lack of the traditional deal-ball thunderer. Now, with one mighty blow from 30 yards, Branco signalled that the fearsome free-kicks were back, that Brazil had found an extra weapon . . . and that they had seized a 3-2 lead they would not relinquish.

Branco said later: "This will shut up the people who didn't believe in me. I've played in three World Cups and I think I deserved more respect."

Romario, ever confident, said: "We showed that this team is mature. A lot of teams would have cracked after losing a two-goal lead. We proved that we are good enough to be champions. But I must say that Holland are the best team that we have faced in these finals."

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said: "We knew the qualities of the Dutch team and they did everything I expected. We didn't let the Dutch create chances — their goals came from a throw and a corner. We proved that we have powers of recovery and are emotionally stable. This is the third time this team has come out of a difficult situation."

Even Holland's disappointed boss Dick Advocaat had to admit: "As far as the spectators are concerned, it was a wonderful game to watch.

"Brazil are world class but I should compliment my team for the way they played, especially coming back from 2-0 down to level. It was a game that contained all the elements football should — tension, strange decisions. Everything that belongs to the game was in it."

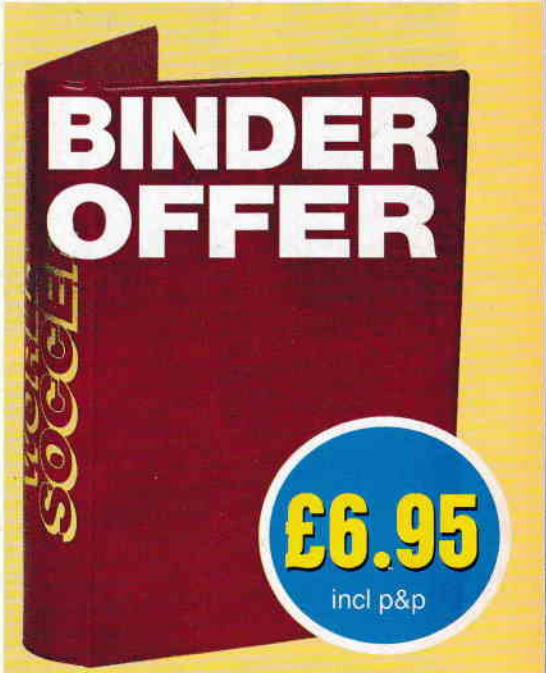
Advocaat refused to elaborate on the "strange decisions", but Witschge was highly critical of Costa Rican referee Rodrigo Badilla and his linesmen. Witschge said: "Bebeto was two to three metres offside when he scored Brazil's second goal. The referee was terrible and the linesman was worse."

JULY 9 = DALLAS

| HOLLAND 2 | | BRAZIL 3 |
|---|---|---|
| *Bergkamp 64, Winter 76* | | *Romario 52, Bebeto 62, Branco 81* |
| De Goey | 1 | Taffarel |
| Winter | 2 | Jorginho |
| Koeman | 3 | Aldair |
| Valckx | 4 | Marcio Santos |
| Wouters | 5 | Branco |
| Rijkaard | 6 | Mazinho |
| Jonk | 7 | Mauro Silva |
| Witschge | 8 | Dunga |
| Overmars | 9 | Zinho |
| Bergkamp | 10 | Bebeto |
| Van Vossen | 11 | Romario |
| Dick Advocaat | *Coach* | Carlos Parreira |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 63,998. **Ref:** Badilla (CR)
***Substitutions:*** R De Boer for Rijkaard (64mins), Roy for Van Vossen (53mins), Cafu for Branco (89mins), Rai for Mazinho (80mins).
***Booked:*** Winter & Wouters (Holland), Dunga (Brazil).

Father figure . . . Bebeto, who became a dad shortly before the match, celebrates his goal with Mazinho (left) and Romario (right).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One against the rest . . . and Stoichkov's free-kick beats them all to put Bulgaria on level terms.

# GERMANY'S *collapse*

**GERMANY, holders of the World Cup and present in the Final ever since 1982, fell from grace just when they appeared about to burst into the form that could carry them to a fourth triumph.**

It was not to be. With a shudder and a crash heard all around the football world, the Germans and all their superstar names — Matthaus, Klinsmann, Voller, Hassler, etc — toppled from their perch. They had not even the consolation of failing in the Final or even the semi-final. Goals from Hristo Stoichkov and Yordan Lechkov in the last 15 minutes dismissed Germany at a stage in which they had not been stopped short since their defeat by Yugoslavia in Chile a full 32 years ago.

The moment the champions or Cup-holders are eliminated from contention is always a watershed, or defining, stage of any competition. Thus far, the results in the tournament could be read in an individual way. Each defeat had its own resonance: such as Argentina's fall, provoked by the psychological fall-out from the Maradona Scandal.

Now, however, with Bulgaria in the semi-finals and Romania having gone so close, maybe this was the time to take a long look at the shape of the World Cup, at the balance of world football, and to suggest that one of the most significant factors within the game in the closing decade of the century may turn out to have been the political collapse of the Soviet Union — and the subsequent release from state amateur bondage of sportsmen in the USSR and in its former satellite nations.

Bulgaria coach Dimitar Penev was asked about the importance to this result of the experience gained by his key players in the sophisticated professional footbal world of western Europe.

He said, right on cue: "Ever since we started our World Cup campaign in the qualifiers we have tried to build our team and our tactics and our strategy around the players who play abroad. They have gained enormously from their experience and we have, subsequently, gained from them. By matching them with the players of our two best clubs we have achieved something unique in Bulgarian football — even sporting — history."

Ironically, the man who scored the winning goal, the classy Lechkov, plays his football in Germany, with SV Hamburg, and was the first Bulgarian to play in the Bundesliga. Not that such an outcome appeared likely for most of a game which Germany approached with only two injury concerns — a remarkably light number considering the stage of the event and the physical pressures involved in so much back-to-back football.

The first was the state of Matthaus's gashed ankle originally damaged against the Koreans, which cost him the second half against Belgium. The other injury was a thigh strain affecting Sammer, a vastly improved cog in the German midfield machinery. Despite optimistic noises in the intervening days from Berti Vogts, Sammer failed to get anywhere near fitness and his absence gave Moller a chance to redeem himself. Moller played his best game of the finals as he concentrated more on being a team man and less on being an individual star.

As for Bulgaria, Penev shuffled his forces as disciplinary concerns dictated. Thus Yankov, Tzvenatov and Ivanov returned while Kiriakov switched from left to right back to replace the suspended Kremenliev.

Within 11 minutes Bulgaria should have been ahead. A quick Lechkov free-kick put in Sirakov and Illgner sprea

**JULY 10 = NEW JERSEY**

| BULGARIA 2 | | GERMANY 1 |
|---|---|---|
| *Stoichkov 75, Lechkov 78* | | *Matthaus 48 (pen)* |
| Mikhailov | 1 | Illgner |
| Ivanov | 2 | Helmer |
| Hubchev | 3 | Matthaus |
| Tzvetanov | 4 | Kohler |
| Kiriakov | 5 | Berthold |
| Lechkov | 6 | Hassler |
| Yankov | 7 | Buchwald |
| Sirakov | 8 | Moller |
| Balakov | 9 | Wagner |
| Kostadinov | 10 | Voller |
| Stoichkov | 11 | Klinsmann |
| Dimitar Penev | *Coach* | Berti Vogts |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 72,416. **Ref:** Torres (Col).
***Substitutions:*** Guentchev for Kostadinov (90mins), Yordanov for Stoichkov (84mins), Brehme for Hassler (82mins), Strunz for Wagner (57mins).
***Booked:*** Ivanov, Stoichkov & Mikhailov (Bulgaria), Helmer, Buchwald, Hassler, Klinsmann & Voller (Germany).

# *Ten* SWEDES *succeed*

**SWEDEN reached the semi-finals for the first time since they were hosts in 1958 through the second penalty shoot-out of the finals after they had been reduced to 10 men.**

They deserved their success, though Romania pushed them all the way and must have believed that they were bound for the Pasadena duel with Brazil.

The match was like a stage play. The plot built up slowly and steadily but it was not until the second half that the sparks of realisation appeared to strike both teams that this was all there was: a one-on-one duel in which there could be only winners and losers.

Sweden might have scored in the third minute. Ingesson crossed from the right and Dahlin headed against a post with the Romanian defence all over the place and goalkeeper Prunea nowhere in sight.

Apart from one early cross-shot by Hagi which the Swedish defence charged down, it was not until the 33rd minute that Romania made any serious inroads into Swedish control.

Two minutes later Lupescu advanced for a dipping drive which was heading just below the crossbar before Ravelli — awaking late to the threat — punched the ball over the top. Dumitrescu duly shot wide after the corner.

Brolin was becoming ever more dangerous as he employed his delightful skills not only wide on the right but, more and more, across the full breadth of the attack.

Sweden went closer yet when a long through ball bounced beyond the central defence and was nodded over Prunea by Ingesson. At first it appeared the goal had been disallowed — wrongly — for offside, but later it emerged that Ingesson had been penalised for a push.

Sweden gained their deserved reward, however, six minutes later. They forced a free-kick just beyond the left edge of the penalty box. Schwarz dummied and Mild slid it beyond the outside of the wall for Brolin, running from behind it at an angle, to thrash the ball beyond Prunea.

At 1-0 ahead Sweden, for the first time, relaxed and let the pace of their game drop. Romania seized the initiative and plunged forward. Two minutes remained of normal time when Hagi took a return touch from a free-kick and drove a pass into the penalty box. The ball was deflected by the fragmenting wall to Raducioiu, who made no mistake from close range.

In extra time Hagi linked with Dumitrescu, Patrik Andersson provided a luckless deflection and Raducioiu shot his second goal. Sweden's hopes appeared to vanish soon afterward when Schwarz sent Dumitrescu crashing and was dismissed for a second bookable offence. The Swedish dream of their seventh World Cup duel with Brazil seemed dead and buried.

The players did not think so. Svensson had bravely taken off the static Dahlin, sending on the lively Henrik Larsson. That shook up the Romanian defence and with five minutes remaining Roland Nilsson crossed from the right and Kennet Andersson climbed above Prunea to equalise with a towering header.

Larsson even had a shot scrambled off the goal line as Sweden, despite their numerical inferiority, finished the stronger of the two teams.

And so to penalties. Sweden got off to the worst possible start when Mild shot high over. Not until Ravelli saved Petrescu's fourth shot for Romania were the Swedes back on terms. The formal five ended at 4-4. Larsson, cool as you like, struck Sweden's first sudden-death kick and then Ravelli stuck out his left arm to deflect away Belodedici's last kick for Romania.

Belodedici had been a shoot-out winner in the Champions Cup with Steaua in 1986 and with Red Star in 1991. Iordanescu played for Steaua, too, in 1986. Those who win by the penalty . . . shall lose by the penalty.

**JULY 10 = SAN FRANCISCO**

| ROMANIA 2 | | SWEDEN 2 |
|---|---|---|
| *Raducioiu 88, 100* | | *Brolin 78, K Andersson 115* |
| SWEDEN WON 5-4 ON PENS, AFTER EXTRA TIME | | |
| Prunea | 1 | Ravelli |
| Prodan | 2 | R Nilson |
| Belodedici | 3 | P Andersson |
| Selymes | 4 | Bjorklund |
| Lupescu | 5 | Ljung |
| Petrescu | 6 | Brolin |
| Munteanu | 7 | Schwarz |
| Hagi | 8 | Mild |
| Popescu | 9 | Ingesson |
| Dumitrescu | 10 | K Andersson |
| Raducioiu | 11 | Dahlin |
| Anghel Iordanescu | *Coach* | Tommy Svensson |

**HT:** 0-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 81,715. **Ref:** Don (Eng).
***Substitutions:*** Panduru for Munteanu (83mins), Kamark for Bjorklund (83mins), H Larsson for Dahlin (106mins).
***Booked:*** Popescu, Selymes & Panduru (Romania), Ingesson (Sweden).
***Sent off:*** Schwarz (102mins).

**PENALTY SHOOT-OUT**
***(Sweden first)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Raducioiu **1-0** | Mild *over* **0-0** |
| Hagi **2-1** | K Andersson **1-1** |
| Lupescu **3-2** | Brolin **2-2** |
| Petrescu *saved* **3-3** | Ingesson **3-3** |
| Dumitrescu **4-4** | Nilsson **4-3** |
| **SUDDEN DEATH** | |
| Belodedici *saved* **4-5** | Larsson **5-4** |

**One against one . . . Nilsson (left) tangles with Selymes.**

himself to block the shot at close range, surviving because nobody was around to reach the rebound. Then the loose ball was ultimately swept back in from the right by Kostadinov and a low drive from Balakov faded just enough for the ball to rap Illgner's right-hand post rather than trickle inside. This time Germany got the ball away.

Another seven minutes passed before Hassler tested Mikhailov with a drive which the goalkeeper saved as he fell. Then Mikhailov saved right on his line from a spectacular diving header by Klinsmann. Mikhailov, apparently surprised by own reflexes, knocked the ball up with his fists and caught it in the air.

In possession terms, Bulgaria were probably seeing slightly more of the ball than Germany. Balakov was all over midfield, ticking away, always available to help out the more stately Lechkov and the excited overlaps of Kiriakov and Tzvetanov. Unfortunately for the Bulgarians, Stoichkov was enduring one of his poorest matches of the finals, strictly policed by Kohler and Berthold and never able to get his game going.

At the other end, by contrast, Klinsmann and Voller kept plugging away relentlessly, contesting every ball, chasing down every defender, never giving the defence a moment's respite when Germany moved forward.

Yet it was Moller who went closest to a first-half goal at the climax to the best Germans move so far, in the 32nd minute. Matthaus lofted a long ball out of central defence and down the left wing, Hassler crossed and Moller strode through to drive goalwards from 25 yards. Ivanov got his body in the way of the shot to block it at the expense of several minutes' treatment.

After half-time, Germany and Klinsmann carried on exactly where they had left off. Inside 25 seconds a Klinsmann shot was deflected for a corner by Ivanov — who knew very little about it. Then, when Klinsmann was tripped by Lechkov, Germany went ahead from the inevitable Matthaus penalty.

Penev queried the award later but few in Giants Stadium saw much reason to doubt it. At that point, only one outcome appeared possible. But Bulgaria had proved before that they possess remarkable depths of spirit and stamina and they immediately reacted with all a counter-puncher's spirit.

The 10 minutes between the 68th and the 78th proved the crux of the match. In the 73rd Germany launched their finest attack of the game. Strunz hit a superb pass up the right for Hassler, whose cross was lashed against a post by Moller. When the ball rebounded in front of goal Voller scored from the rebound but was offside.

Two minutes later Buchwald brought down Stoichkov, who curled a superb free-kick over the wall and past Illgner's left hand. Then Bulgaria, apparently against all the odds, pulled ahead. Sirakov crossed from the right after a corner and Lechkov dived to head in. The Germans threw men forward — including Matthaus — in the minutes which followed but there was no beating Mikhailov now. The Germans' four-year reign was over.

Vogts said: "We made two serious mistakes — the wall was badly organised on Stoichkov's free-kick and then Hassler should not have been the man marking Lechkov — and they punished us for them.

"This is not the end of the world. We play Russia in September and then we go forward towards the 1996 European Championship — when we have to play Bulgaria again in the qualifiers. We will have a different team, of course."

Out . . . Baggio weeps as injury takes some of the gloss off his match-winning performance.

JULY 13 = NEW JERSEY

## BULGARIA 1 — ITALY 2

| *Stoichkov 42 (pen)* | | *R Baggio 20, 25* |
|---|---|---|
| Mikhailov | 1 | Pagliuca |
| Kiriakov | 2 | Mussi |
| Hubchev | 3 | Costacurta |
| Ivanov | 4 | Maldini |
| Tzvetanov | 5 | Benarrivo |
| Lechkov | 6 | Berti |
| Yankov | 7 | Albertini |
| Sirakov | 8 | D Baggio |
| Balakov | 9 | Donadoni |
| Kostadinov | 10 | R Baggio |
| Stoichkov | 11 | Casiraghi |
| Dimitar Penev | *Coach* | Arrigo Sacchi |

**HT:** 1-2, **Att:** 77,094, **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)

***Substitutions:*** Yordanov for Kostadinov (71mins), Guentchev for Stoichkov (78mins), Conte for D Baggio (55mins), Signori for R Baggio (70mins).

***Booked:*** Kostadinov, Lechkov & Yankov (Bulgaria), Costacurta & Albertini (Italy)

# ROBE

**ITALY reached the Final relieved that only one match remained before they ran out of players. Roberto Baggio was both their hero and their centre of concern after a victory which lifted them to their fifth World Cup Final appearance, 60 years after their first.**

Bulgaria, to their credit, pushed Italy all the way and might have had a little more fortune with refereeing decisions in the closing stages. But in the first quarter of the game Italy demonstrated such an enormous class gap between the teams that the outcome was not seriously open to dispute.

In the end however, so much depended on Roberto Baggio. Coach Arrigo Sacchi, when asked to define his top player's performance, said: "I will answer with one word — exceptional!"

World Cup semi-finals tend to be fraught affairs. They may possess all the elements of high drama but pressure generally precludes good football. Too many tactical options are running through the minds of players and coaches and too much desperation — so near, yet so far — is evident in the over-hasty passes, the wasted possession and the gibbering of the players.

Hope for the quality of this first semi-final rested on the Italian players' great experience under pressure and, conversely, in Bulgarian satisfaction at having gone further in the tournament than even they, in their wildest dreams, had ever believed possible.

Sacchi, unable to stop fiddling with his team, recalled Casiraghi up front instead of Massaro, brought in Mussi at right-back for the suspended Tassotti (banned for eight internationals for doing a nose job on Spain's Luis Enrique) and omitted Conte to return to a "safe" midfield of Berti, Albertini, Dino Baggio and Donadoni.

Bulgaria, predictably, were unchanged for the first time in the event, coach Dimitar Penev believing that team stability mattered more than the advantage of a few fresh legs.

The one jarring note at the start was the selection of Frenchman Joel Quiniou as referee. No quibbling with his possessing the appropriate stature for the job. But, considering that Bulgaria had beaten France in the

very last seconds of the qualifying campaign, it meant that FIFA had laid Quiniou open to all sorts of attack by inuendo if things went awry on the pitch.

As they did — thus provoking precisely the accusations which should have been foreseen.

The first 20 minutes were spent in high-speed sparring. Both teams took off as if they were trying to run the opposition into the ground. Instead the ball pinged off a variety of boots without ever settling into any one place or either team's pattern. Italy were the more deft and imaginative and, worryingly for the eastern Europeans, they were much quicker at covering up in defence when they had lost possession in midfield.

Twenty minutes was the time Roberto Baggio needed to find his range and shoot Italy ahead. Bulgaria relaxed after conceding a throw-in deep inside their own territory. They clearly believed that everyone had been marked but they reckoned without the technical improvisation of Baggio, who brought the throw-in around, stepped across two defenders, then curled a shot behind Ivanov's back but out beyond Mikhailov's fingertips and then back inside the goalkeeper's left-hand post.

Suddenly, there was only one team in the match. Albertini provided the sparks. In the 22nd minute he

In . . . Baggio curls his shot around Ivanov and wide of Mikhailov.

# RTO? *Exceptional!*

drove a shot against a post. In the 23rd he saw a chipped shot tipped over the bar by Mikhailov's fingertips. And in the 24th he clipped a through pass for Roberto Baggio to convert for the second goal. Bulgaria trembled, teetered and wobbled on their semi-final perch. Donadoni crashed in an angled drive from out on the left which shaved Mikhailov's left-hand post then Maldini, stand-in skipper for the injured Baresi, headed just wide from a corner on the right.

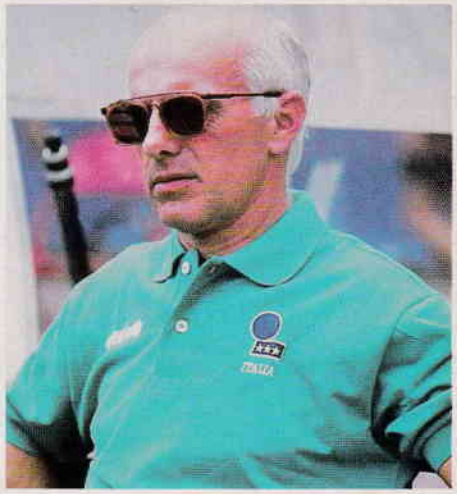
Amid all this pressure Bulgaria broke away with any significance just the once, when a Kiriakov cross from the right caused some confusion in the defence and Balakov's eventual shot was deflected just wide. Yet, perhaps not so surprisingly for all those who had seen the Bulgarians against Argentina and Mexico, they reduced the deficit just before half-time.

Sirakov embarked on a mazy, high-speed run into the Italian defence and, with Pagliuca emerging from goal to meet him, was brought down from behind by Costacurta. Stoichkov converted the penalty to become the tournament's joint top scorer on six goals (level with Russia's Oleg Salenko).

At the beginning of the second half Bulgaria threw themselves determinedly into the chase for an equaliser. They were right in believing that this was their best chance, while Italy remained off the boil, but the half produced little in the way of danger to either goal. Both teams shuffled substitutes but the most significant event was the yellow card shown to Costacurta for an unnecessary tackle. The card, added to one in the knock-out stage, eventually meant he would miss the Final — just as he had missed May's Champions Cup Final for Milan against Barcelona.

Bulgaria demanded late penalties for a handball offence by Costacurta and then for a foul on Lechkov but Quiniou — probably tired of all their previous attempts to con him into awarding free-kicks — ignored both claims.

Quiniou came under attack afterwards from Stoichkov, who said: "Today proved that the officiating



has been among the weakest in the history of the World Cup. You must accept the fact that the referee is French and France are not playing in this World Cup. He is on the verge of retirement and I don't think it was just a mere coincidence that this referee was chosen to officiate in this match."

Bulgarian captain Mikhailov claimed a spot-kick for that handball by Costacurta while coach Penev complained about the Lechkov tumble.

But Penev did have the grace to add: "We cannot really be upset with our defence for letting Baggio score those two wonderful goals, but we cannot also ignore the two penalties which the referee let go."

Asked if he was being too optimistic to demand two penalties in one day, particularly in a World Cup semi-final, he was philosophical. "Yes," said Penev. "I think one was the most we could expect against Italy."

Sacchi *(above)* said: "We played an excellent first half, particularly the first 35 minutes and perhaps we deserved more. Then the penalty, the heat and the ability of our opponents made things very difficult for us."

Recalling the nightmare of Italy's opening defeat by Ireland, Sacchi said: "When I remember how we started off in this same stadium it just goes to show that there is very little in life of which you can be certain."

No wonder the Italian squad's medical staff had gone into a small panic because of the hamstring injury which had forced Sacchi to pull Baggio out of the match after 70 minutes. Intensive treatment would follow inevitably . . . just as, after the two semi-finals had been completed, it was inevitable that one nation would shortly make history as the first four-time winners of the World Cup.

In again . . . Baggio (far left) scores his second goal.

Spot the scorer . . .
Romario *(left)* salutes the fans.

**JULY 13 = PASADENA**

| SWEDEN 0 | | BRAZIL 1 |
|---|---|---|
| | | *Romario 80* |
| Ravelli | 1 | Taffarel |
| R Nilsson | 2 | Jorginho |
| P Andersson | 3 | Aldair |
| Bjorklund | 4 | Marcio Santos |
| Ljung | 5 | Branco |
| Brolin | 6 | Mazinho |
| Thern | 7 | Dunga |
| Mild | 8 | Mauro Silva |
| Ingesson | 9 | Zinho |
| Dahlin | 10 | Bebeto |
| K Andersson | 11 | Romario |
| Tommy Svensson | *Coach* | Carlos Parreira |

**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 84,569. **Ref:** Torres (Col).
***Substitutions:*** Rehn for Dahlin (68mins), Rai for Mazinho (46mins).
***Booked:*** Ljung & Brolin (Sweden), Zinho (Brazil).
***Sent off:*** Thern (63mins).

# ROM

**BRAZIL reached the Final, for the first time since their legendary victory in 1970, after one of the poorest matches of the entire tournament. Leg-weary Sweden offered no contest. They merely hung on as best they could, which was not very good, for a number of reasons.**

The long and short of it was this: Brazil were much the better team, although they had to wait a long time before the extraordinary Romario scored the winner.

Their coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, summed it all up in a high-speed post-mortem of a match which compared, in anti-climax, with Italy's 2-0 victory over Poland at the same stage in 1982.

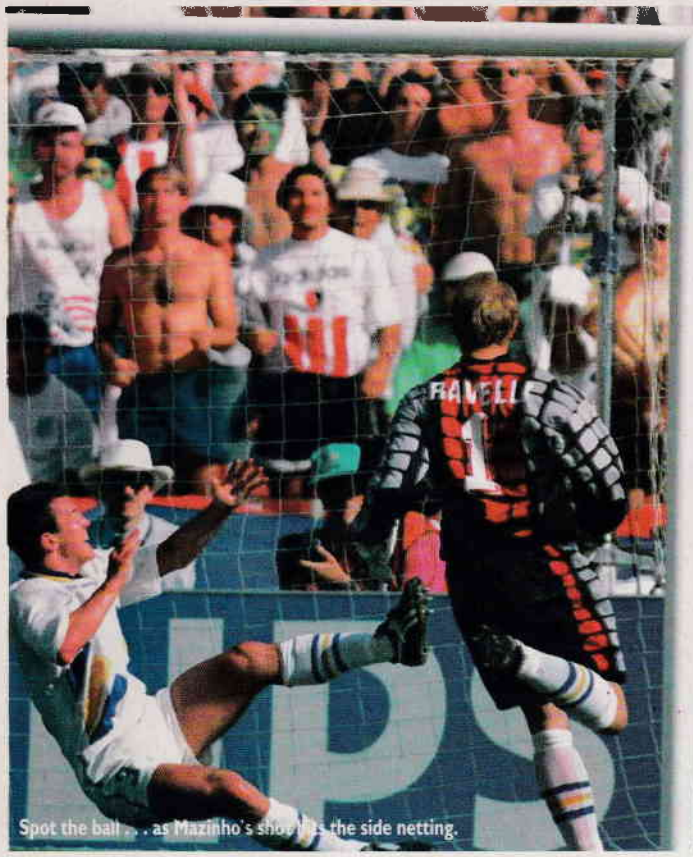
Parreira said: "I always knew this would be difficult. But we took the initiative from the beginning and controlled the game in all aspects. We created all the opportunities and were never in any danger.

"We had 29 shots all told, nine real chances, and 1-0 does not begin to translate Brazil's supremacy.

"I'm delighted for all the players for all their hard work. We played to reach the Final — and we got there."

Sweden boss Tommy Svensson had no doubt that the better team — the far, far better team — had reached the Final. He said: "Obviously I am disappointed with the result yet I feel that we lost to the best team in the tournament. We did not recover well from our tough match against Romania on Sunday. Some players were not as fit as they might have been and that upset our play a little. We were not up to scratch today.

"I always thought that the team who scored first would win. We would have needed some luck even at full




Spot the ball . . . as Mazinho's shot hits the side netting.

# ARIO?
# *Extraordinary!*

strength. And, of course, the expulsion of Jonas Thern made things even tougher for us. I thought he deserved a yellow card but not a red. I didn't really understand why the referee was so severe.

"After this disappointment, we will be able to look back later and be very pleased with our performance at this World Cup."

Sweden were rank outsiders but logic has not been one of the most notable features at these finals and another upset to add to the catalogue was not beyond the realms of possibility. Brazil stuck with the team who had beaten Holland while Sweden, missing the suspended Schwarz, welcomed back Thern, and Mild held his place in midfield.

Any thoughts that Dahlin and Kennet Andersson might, with their strength and aerial power, embarrass the Brazilian defence, were soon quashed. Andersson tried hard enough with little service on which to work but Dahlin had perhaps his poorest game of the finals. Whether he was one of the injury problems or not, he appeared to have little heart for chasing long balls and half-lost causes and, on the occasions Andersson had possession, Dahlin made little effort to pull defenders away or make space to help his team-mates.

Perhaps he was a little overawed by the occasion and the nature of the opponents. Certainly Brazil might have had a hatful of goals by half-time had it not been for some amazingly careless finishing, the superb defiance of Ravelli in his Swedish record 116th international, and a remarkable goal-line clearance (from Romario) by Patrik Andersson.

The first half was entirely one-way. Ravelli punched out a drive from Bebeto; a Branco free-kick was swallowed up low by Ravelli; Bebeto penetrated the defence but Zinho blasted wide of an open goal; Andersson cleared off the line from Romario and Mazinho thumped the loose ball into the side net when it appeared easier to score; Romario sliced wide across goal from the left; Dunga's great pass out of defence found Bebeto running clear but, when he crossed, Romario's shot was blocked for a corner by Ravelli; Bebeto, losing faith in his team-mates, sent in a dipping shot which carried inches over the bar.

Compared with all this, Sweden produced just one shot in the first half, when a speculative 25-yard drive from Mild was saved low by Taffarel. But the game raised powerful memories of Brazil's second-round victory over the United States, when they had all the possession, exerted all the pressure, but won only 1-0.

Parreira *(above right)* clearly decided he did not want a repeat and recalled Rai on the right of midfield at half-time instead of the more prosaic, defensive Mazinho. The public address system announced that Rai had substituted for Bebeto. That might have been wishful thinking on behalf of Sweden. As Ravelli said later: "I always knew it would be a difficult game. After the first half I realised it would be more difficult than I thought."

Ravelli bore the brunt of the difference between the teams. He had no time to get his eye in for the second half. Within a minute Rai cut in on the right, forcing the goalkeeper to dive at his feet for a smart save. It was then business as before.

A Zinho drive was tipped over by Ravelli; another Romario effort was brilliantly stoppeed by the goalkeeper and Zinho could not quite time his attempt to reach the loose ball; Mauro Silva, growing impatient with his front men, strode forward to drive a shot of his own wide; and finally, in the 80th minute, Bebeto found Jorginho in space on the right and Romario rose wonderfully to head home at the far post.

For the previous 18 minutes, Sweden had been playing with 10 men after Thern — of all people — was sent off for kicking out at Dunga long after the ball had gone. It was sad to see Thern leaving the World Cup this way. It was as if he were not merely physically tired, but mentally weary as well.

With the honourable, super-class, exception of Brolin, the Swedes had nothing to offer. They had left their mental and physical capacities behind in the extra time effort to hold Romania at the weekend.

Sweden threw men forward in the closing minutes but never embarrassed the Brazilian defence. Brolin alone offered hope. But, on his own, the challenge was too much. At the final whistle he walked briskly, alone, from the pitch - pausing only to exchange words of congratulation to Taffarel, his one-time team-mate at Parma.

The Swedes were never going to reach the same class and skill level as Brazil. Sadly, it seemed that the tournament logistics had contributed towards preventing them from even trying.

# DIARY

## TUE 17 MAY

**ACTION:** England thrash Greece 5-0 at Wembley . . . Poland lose 4-3 at home to Austria.

**ARGENTINA:** Claudio Caniggia pulls out of tomorrow's friendly against Chile because of a leg injury.

**BELGIUM:** Paul Van Himst drops Luis Oliveira from his World Cup squad because he had demanded a place in the starting line-up. One surprise inclusion is 35-year-old sweeper Michel De Wolf.

**COLOMBIA:** Rene Higuita is, as expected, missing from Colombia's World Cup squad.

**FRANCE:** Marseille defender Basile Boli goes on tour to South America, on trial with Lazio.

**ISRAEL:** Maccabi Tel-Aviv and Hapoel Tel -Aviv both win their Cup semi-finals in penalty shoot-outs against Hapoel Zafirim Holon and Maccabi Petah-Tikva respectively.

**ITALY:** Milan executive Adriano Galliani says that Ruud Gullit and Giovanni Stroppa represent the sum total of Milan's transfer dealings this summer. He says Marco Van Basten may be ready to return to action by the end of July.

**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA declares themselves favourable to a 32-team World Cup in France in 1998 but opposed to a qualifying system which involves inter-continental play-offs.

## WED 18 MAY

**ACTION:** Milan *(above right)* rout Barcelona 4-0 in the Champions Cup Final in Athens . . . Argentina draw 3-3 with Chile; Maradona creates two of the goals.

**JAPAN:** Australia send a team to Japan at short notice to substitute for Argentina's refuseniks in the Kirin Cup.

**MEXICO:** National team doctor Gabriel Cherebetiu flies to Madrid to check the leg injury which has kept Hugo Sanchez out of action.

## THU 19

**NIGERIA:** The national coach Clemens Westerhof says he will step down after the World Cup.

**PORTUGAL:** Benfica lift their training ground suspension on Sergei Yuran *(right)* after he apologises to coach Toni for refusing to be a substitute in a recent league game . . . Stan Valckx signs a new contract to stay with Sporting Lisbon.

## FRI 20 MAY

**SOUTH KOREA:** Foreign-based Kim Joo-sung and Japan-based Noh Jung-yoon are, after a top-level meeting among Federation officials, named as certain for the World Cup squad.

**SPAIN:** Real Madrid formally confirm the open secret that Fernando Redondo is joining from Tenerife

## SAT 21 MAY

**ACTION:** The United States lose 3-2 to Bayern Munich in a friendly *(right)*.

**SCOTLAND:** Dundee United beat Rangers 1-0 in the Scottish Cup Final thus wrecking their bid for a second successive treble.

## SUN 22 MAY

**GERMANY:** Ulf Kirsten may miss the World Cup finals after tearing a muscle during a training game at his country's HQ at Malente.

**ITALY:** Juventus reserves beat Cameroon 4-1 in a friendly in Turin.

## MON 23 MAY

**ACTION:** Estonia lose 2-1 at home to Wales. Neville Southall wins a national record 74th cap, overtaking Peter Nicholas.

**ENGLAND:** Paul Elliott *(right)* sues Dean Saunders in the High Court, claiming damages for the premature ending of his career as a consequence of a tackle made by Saunders in match between Chelsea and Liverpool in September 1992.

Saunders and Liverpool, whom he was then about to leave for Aston Villa, deny liability.

**FRANCE:** The league accounts commission ban Paris Saint-Germain from buying new players because of the club's current level of indebtedness.

**SPAIN:** Michael Laudrup tells a press conference that will leave Barcelona, that he has not been on speaking terms with coach Johan Cruyff since January and that the club are mistaken in releasing veteran international goalkeeper Zubizarreta. Laudrup says he has offers from Real Madrid "and two other clubs who will be in the Champions League next season" (taken as Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain).

**ROMANIA:** Coach Anghel Iordanescu omits Ion Timofte and Marius Lacatus from his provisional World Cup squad of 24.

**SWITZERLAND:** World Cup upset for Roy Hodgson as No 1 goalkeeper Marco Pascolo damages a knee in training.

**UNITED STATES:** Alan Rothenberg says that the US organisers will not now try to enforce the controversial "security waiver" form on journalists seeking World Cup accreditation.

## TUE 24 MAY

**ACTION:** The Irish Republic beat Bolivia 1-0 in Dublin with a late goal from John Sheridan.

**AUSTRALIA:** The Australian players union demands an inquiry into procedures surrounding international transfers out of concern at money allegedly being syphoned off by clubs and agents.

**CAMEROON:** National skipper Stephen Tataw calls for state President Paul Biya to step in and rescue the World Cup bid from the chaos and confusion into which it has sunk.

**ENGLAND:** Liverpool buy Danish under-21 goalkeeper Michael Steensgaard from Hvidovre for £300,000.

**GREECE:** Olympiakos sign Yugoslav Footballer of the Year Ilija Ivic from Red Star Belgrade.

**TURKEY:** Champions Galatasaray dismiss German coach Reiner Hollmann after one season . . . in which they won the championship.

## WED 25 MAY

**ACTION:** Romania beat Nigeria 2-0 in a World Cup finalists' special . . . in other friendlies, the Czech Republic beat Lithuania 5-3 and Ukraine beat Byelorussia 3-1.

**AUSTRALIA:** National champions Adelaide City sell Australia striker Carl Veart to Sheffield United for £400,000 . . . the Victoria state government formally abandons the maverick bid to host the 2002 World Cup which had been launched, unauthorised, by state premier Jeff Kennett. But ASF president Neville Wran says Australia will contest the 2006 hostings.

**GERMANY:** Berti Vogts criticises FIFA for letting down soccer in the US by not insisting that the professional league was up and running before the World Cup.

**ITALY:** The league votes to adopt three points for a win in Serie A and Serie B next season. League president Luciano Nizzola says officials wants to force teams to play to win and encourage entertaining soccer, partly to counter this season's 10 per cent drop in revenue.

**JAPAN:** World Cup 2002 bid spokesman Bobby Charlton warns the Japanese against complacency in their campaign.

**PORTUGAL:** Benfica secure a record 30th league title, beating Gil Vicente 3-0 away and making certain the championship with two games remaining.

**RUSSIA:** Sergei Kiriakov becomes the latest Russia rebel to repent of his opposition to coach Pavel Sadyrin and be welcomed back into the World Cup squad. Now only four rebels remain — Andrei Kanchelskis, Igor Kolivanov and the pair branded by Sadyrin as ring-leaders, Igor Shalimov and Igor Dobrovolski.

**UKRAINE:** National coach Oleg Basilevich says star veterans Oleg Protasov, Alexei Mikhailichenko, Oleg Kuznetsov, Gennadi Litovchenko and Moscow Spartak's Yuri Sak had all agreed to play in the forthcoming European Championship qualifiers.

## THU 26 MAY

**ACTION:** Sweden lose 1-0 to European champions Denmark in Copenhagen . . . France beat Australia 1-0 in the Kirin Cup in Japan.

**BELGIUM:** Mechelen agree the sale of Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme ***(left)*** to newly-crowned Portuguese champions Benfica.

**GERMANY:** Karlsruhe striker Sergei Kiriakov denies reports that he is ending his rebellion and going to play for Russia at the World Cup finals.

**CYPRUS:** International defender Charalambos Pittas of champions Apollon becomes the second senior player charged by police with accepting money to fix three matches. Giannis Constantinou, from Pezoporikos, had been charged earlier in the month.

**WALES:** Konica League runners-up Inter-Cardiff learn that they will be accepted, after all, into next season's UEFA Cup.

**UNITED STATES:** Brazil arrive in San Jose, California, to begin final preparations for the bid to win a record fourth World Cup.

## FRI 27 MAY

**ACTION:** Holland beat Scotland 3-1 in Utrecht; Italy beat Finland 2-0 in Parma; and Switzerland defeat Liechtenstein 2-0 in Basel.

**FRANCE:** Saint Etienne dismiss Jacques Santini. The former Saints inside forward still had 12 months of a three-year coaching contract to run.

**GERMANY:** Stuttgart sell Swiss striker Adrian Knup to Karlsruhe.

**ITALY:** Roma close in on Napoli's Uruguayan top scorer, Daniel Fonseca, and prepare to sell Sinisa Mihajlovic to Sampdoria.

**PORTUGAL:** Benfica agree to sell Russia World Cup striker Sergei Yuran to Arsenal for £1.76million . . . Brazilian defender Carlos Mozer returns to training in Lisbon despite having been axed rom Brazil's World Cup squad because of alleged hepatitis.

**SWEDEN:** Defender Roger Ljung is doubtful for the World Cup after being injured in the midweek defeat by Denmark.

## SAT 28 MAY

**ACTION:** New Haven's new grass pitch comes into use as the United States draw 1-1 with Greece . . . Casino Salzburg extend their lead in Austria to three points after winning 3-1 away to Vorwarts Steyr . . . Legia Warsaw beat Warta Poznan 3-2 and, despite their three-point penalty for match-fixing last season, go to of the table in Poland with four games to go.

**BULGARIA:** The World Cup squad are now promised a 50 per cent share of Bulgaria's World Cup profits as their bonus at the finals. This followed the withdrawal by the federation of the 70,000-a-man promised by president Valentin Mihov.

## SUN 29 MAY

**ACTION:** World Cup holders Germany suffer a shock 2-0 home defeat by the Irish Republic in Hannover ***(below)*** but Russia end their home-based warm-up programme with a 2-1 win over Slovakia . . . France win the Kirin Cup in Japan, beating their hosts 4-1 in the final match of the event . . . Mexico beat Ajax Amsterdam 2-1 . . . Belgium lose to FC Sete.

**SPAIN:** Javier Clemente bans fans and journalists for most of the remainder of his team's World Cup build-up after enthusiastic crowds invade the training ground in Santander.

**BELGIUM:** Anderlecht sell Belgium striker Luc Nilis to PSV Eindhoven.

**ENGLAND:** Norway defender Gunnar Halle says he intends staying with Oldham next season despite the club's relegation from the Premier League.

# OBITUARY

**JUAN SCURSONI,** thought to be the oldest surviving international footballer, has died just short of his 95th birthday. Scursoni played for various clubs in Argentina, and appeared twice for his country when 23.

**JOAQUIN OLIVA,** one of the players who helped to put Real Madrid on the way to greatness, has died aged 73. He was a central defender in the Real team who won the Spanish title in 1954, their first for 21 years, and played in nine European Cup matches in the next two seasons. He had been with Sabadell, Barcelona and Espanol before going to Real.

**RAFAEL ALSUA,** who was capped twice by Spain in 1954, has died at 71. He had a varied career, having three spells with Santander and two with Real Sociedad, as well as playing for Real Union, Osasuna, Real Madrid, Valencia, Oviedo and Jaen.

**ARNOLD OLIVER,** who became a member of the US National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1968, has died in his home town of New Bedford, Massachusetts, aged 86. Oliver played for various teams and was a member of the US squad who went to Uruguay in 1930 for the first World Cup, but did not play in a match there.

**BOSCO JANKOVIC,** a lawyer who became a professional footballer in three countries, has died of cancer at 42. He won five Yugoslav caps and one championship medal with Zeljeznicar of Sarajevo, and later played in England, for Middlesbrough, and France, for Metz.

**MARIO GANTA,** of Juventus, Prato and Genoa, who was capped twice for Italy in 1939, has died at 80, and **LUIGI ROSSELLINI**, of Napoli, Milan and Lucchese, has died at 75.

**NOEL DWYER,** capped 14 times as the Republic of Ireland's goalkeeper, has died at 59. Dwyer played for Wolves, West Ham, Swansea, Plymouth and Charlton, and later became father-in-law to England forward Frank Worthington.

**GERALD WARD,** youngest player in Arsenal's history, has died at 57. Ward made his debut as a winger in 1953 aged 16. After three games, however, he lost his place and did not get another senior match for five years. He later played for Orient and Cambridge City, and helped Barnet to the FA Trophy Final in 1972.

# DIARY

## MON 30 MAY

**ACTION:** World Cup squads named include Bulgaria, Cameroon, Russia, Nigeria, Norway and Switzerland.

**ENGLAND:** Blackburn central defender David May ***(right)*** signs a four-year contract with champions Manchester United.

**HOLLAND:** Ruud Gullit quits Holland's World Cup squad, infuriating his team-mates and aggravating the crisis for coach Dick Advocaat by saying he will not explain until after the World Cup finals.

**ITALY:** Agostino Di Bartolomei, former midfielder for Roma and Milan, commits suicide by shooting himself in the head at his home in San Marco di Castellabate, south of Naples. He leaves a widow and two children . . . Massimo Cellino, president of Cagliari, gives himself up after prosecutors issue a warrant for his arrest on fraud charges.

**ROMANIA:** The World Cup squad win a promise of higher bonuses if they reach the second round. Federation president Mircea Sandu says players will each receive $18,000 if they reach the second round, compared with $15,000 offered previously. The players had threatened to boycott Wednesday's

## TUE 31 MAY

**ACTION:** Argentina beat Israel 3-0 in Tel-Aviv with two goals from Batistuta and one by Caniggia, his first since returning from suspension.

**ENGLAND:** Irish Republic defender Steve Staunton ends speculation about a return to Liverpool when he signs a new four-year contract to stay at Aston Villa. Ireland and Villa team-mate Paul McGrath also signs a new deal.

## WED 1 JUN

**ACTION:** Canada draw 1-1 with Morocco; Holland thrash Hungary 7-1; Norway beat European champions 2-1; Romania draw 0-0 with Slovenia.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS:** Cuba goalkeeper Noel Arguellos, who defected in March, is arrested and taken into custody accused of being uncooperative with the immigration authorities.

**HOLLAND:** National manager Dick Advocaat reveals, after the 7-1 win over Hungary, that Marco Van Basten has volunteered his services as shock World Cup substitute for Ruud Gullit.

**SPAIN:** Compostela beat Rayo Vallecano 3-1 in a play-off to reach the top flight for the first time. Mexican veteran Hugo Sanchez is sent off for a bad foul as Rayo go down to the second division.

**UNITED STATES:** Bora Milutinovic names his World Cup squad, dropping Brian Bliss, Chris Henderson and Dominic Kinnear from his remaining player list . . . Dallas City Council, facing possible legal action from the World Cup organisers, agrees to the removal of part of the controversial pitch perimeter fence.

## THU 2 JUN

**ACTION:** Spain win 2-1 in Finland; Germany win 5-1 in Austria though victory is marred by hooliganism before and after the game, with one fan stabbed, dozens of arrests and 11 policemen injured.

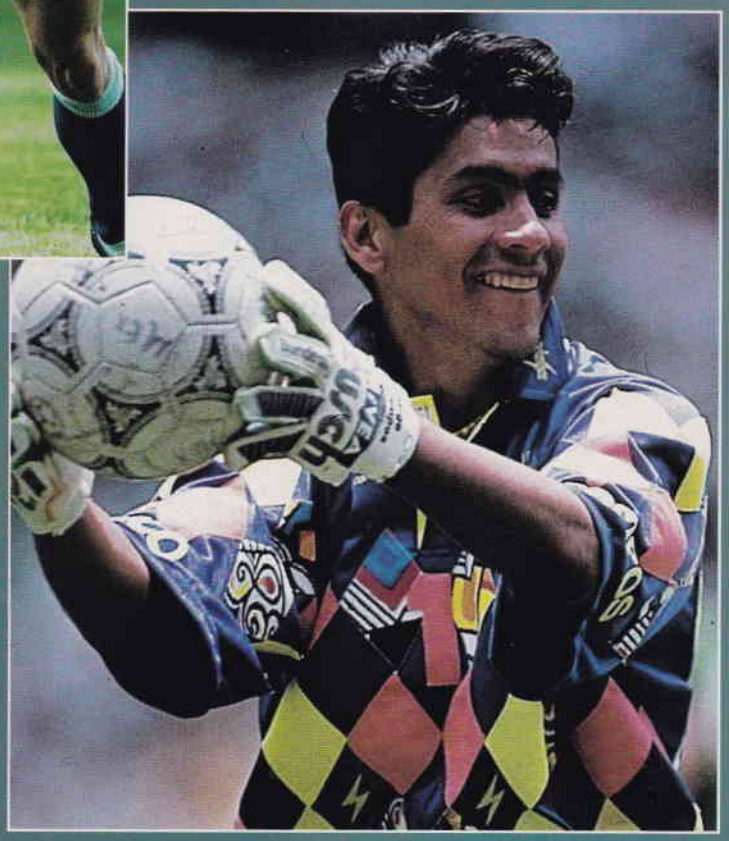
**ARGENTINA:** Argentina coach Alfio Basile drops Real Zaragoza midfielder Dario Franco from his World Cup squad. Franco has not regained form after breaking a leg during the Copa America in Ecuador last June.

**GERMANY:** World Cup striker Ulf Kirsten is named by the *FAZ* newspaper as having been an active spy for the Stasi, the former East German secret police.

**HOLLAND:** PSV Eindhoven go on spending, this time in bringing midfielder or defender Marciano Vink home from Genoa.

**ITALY:** Milan say that Marco Van Basten would be ill-advised to play at the World Cup finals and that, in travelling to the finals, he might even be jeopardising legal and insurance contracts.

**MEXICO:** Goalkeeper Jorge Campos ***(below)*** manages to escape a legal order which would have barred him from leaving Mexico with the national squad pending the hearing of a dispute with a sponsor.



**ROMANIA:** National coach Anghel Iordanescu names 25-year-old Rapid Bucharest striker Ioan Vladoiu as the final member of his 22-man World Cup squad.

**SPAIN:** Valencia announce that Brazil boss Carlos Alberto Parreira will take over as their coach after the World Cup finals.

## FRI 3 JUN

**ACTION:** Italy beat Switzerland by just 1-0 in Rome; Bulgaria, perhaps put off by their World Cup bonus row, are held 1-1 at home in Sofia by Ukraine.

**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona threatens to quit the national squad yet again after he is blamed personally by Dario Franco's mother, in a radio interview, for her son's exclusion from Argentina's World Cup squad.

**BULGARIA:** FA president Valentin Mihov resigns in the storm over World Cup bonuses promised to the players.

**CAMEROON:** National coach Henri Michel decides, after all, to include veteran Roger Milla in his World Cup squad.

**GERMANY:** DFB officials say Ulf Kirsten, under pressure over his history as a Stasi spy, will be staying with the German World Cup squad . . . Schalke 04 are poised to sign United States defender Thomas Dooley.

**HOLLAND:** Milan tell Marco Van Basten there is no way he dare play for Holland as Ruud Gullit's substitute at the World Cup. Van Basten, reluctantly, withdraws. Coach Dick Advocaat recalls John Bosman from his holiday in Marbella.

**MEXICO:** Hugo Sanchez flies home from Spain promising to 'sacrifice my individual brilliance' for the sake of the team.

**SCOTLAND:** Brian Laudrup visits Glasgow to consider an offer to play, next season, for Rangers in league and Champions League.

**SWITZERLAND:** Milan are fined a total of £70,000 by UEFA for fan misbehaviour at Champions League matches last season . . . the Yugoslav Federation notify UEFA they cannot fulfil security of entry guarantees and thus cannot regain membership and/or enter their clubs in next season's European competitions.

## SAT 4 JUN

**ACTION:** More World Cup warm-ups: the US beat Mexico 1-0 in front of 91,000 in Pasadena, the largest crowd ever to watch the US team; Saudi Arabia beat Trinidad and Tobago 3-2 in New Jersey; Argentina draw 0-0 with Croatia in Zagreb; Belgium thrash Zambia 9-0 with a five-goal debut from Josip Weber; Colombia beat Northern Ireland 2-0 in Boston.

**CANADA:** Left-back Branco is ruled out by injury from Brazil's two friendlies against Canada in Edmonton and against Honduras in San Diego on Wednesday.

**LUXEMBOURG:** Avenir Beggen win the championship despite losing their last match 3-1 at home to Aris Bonnevoie.

**SWITZERLAND:** Fourteen of the players who took part, for West Germany and Argentina, in the 1990 World Cup Final are back in the squads of 22 submitted for USA '94.

## SUN 5 JUN

**ACTION:** A shock defeat for the Irish Republic, who prepare to set out on the back of an upset 3-1 beating by the Czech Republic in Dublin; Sweden beat Norway 2-0 in Stockholm; Canada and Brazil draw 1-1; Colombia beat Greece 2-0 in the first match to be played in Giants Stadium since real grass was laid.

**HUNGARY:** VAC-Samsung win their first league title with one game to go despite being held 2-2 at home by Vasas.

**PORTUGAL:** FC Porto and Sporting draw 0-0 in the Cup Final. The replay is set for Friday.

## MON 6 JUN

**INDONESIA:** Dejan Savicevic scores a hat-trick as Milan beat an Indonesian XI 4-1 in Jakarta.

**AUSTRALIA:** A knee injury forces key defender Ned Zelic to pull out of Australia's first international against South Africa for 40 years.

**GERMANY:** The World Cup squad set off for Canada for a final week of preparations before opening the defence of the World Cup against Bolivia in Chicago.

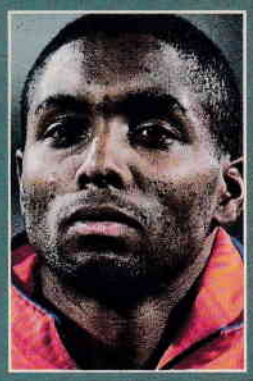
**ITALY:** Nicola Berti ***(right)*** extends his contract with Inter by two years hours before the Italian World Cup squad flies out, sent on its way by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

**SPAIN:** Real Madrid agree a two-year contract with Barcelona's Denmark forward Michael Laudrup.

**UNITED STATES:** World Cup organisers announce that tickets have sold out for five of six matches at Stanford Stadium, Palo Alto, California. Hoteliers are not so happy: 25,000 of the reserved 188,000 room nights are still open . . . Swiss fans are given special clearance to bring cowbells into the stadia; Brazilian fans are given special clearance for their samba drums . . . World Cup organising president Alan Rothenberg demands an apology from Greek manager Alketas Panagoulias over claims that the Greek players had money and keys stolen from the dressing rooms during their friendly match against Colombia.

**TUE 7 JUN**

**ENGLAND:** Nottingham Forest agree transfer terms for Bryan Roy *(right)*, the £2.5m-valued Dutch World Cup winger from Italian club Foggia.



**FRANCE:** England beat Portugal 2-0 in the final of the Toulon Under-21 tournament.

**RUSSIA:** Moscow Dynamo striker Igor Simuntenkov is out on World Cup standby after Spartak's Vladimir Beschastnikh is diagnosed assuffering from tonsilitis.

**SCOTLAND:** Rangers chairman David Murray says he fears his club will have to play in the preliminary round, in August, of the new Champions Cup.

**WED 8 JUN**

**ACTION:** In World Cup warm-ups Germany beat Canada 2-0 in Toronto but lose midfielder Mario Basler with a suspected broken leg; Belgium beat Hungary 3-1 in Brussels with further goals from Weber and Nilis . . . Australia defeat South Africa 1-0 in Adelaide in the countries' first football match for 40 years.

**AUSTRIA:** Casino Austria Salzburg beat Admira Wacker 2-0 to clinch the national championship for the first time in their 60-year history.

**BELGIUM:** Champions Anderlecht virtually complete the transfer of league top-scorer Josip Weber from Cercle Bruges.

**ITALY:** Uruguay's Carlos Aguilera is sentenced to two years' jail in his absence after being convicted by a Genoa court on charges involving a prostitution ring.

**JAPAN:** Toto Schillaci is banned for two games for dissent while playing at the weekend for Jubilo Iwata against JEF Ichihara.

**UNITED STATES:** American government officials ban Nigeria Airlines from flying the Nigerian team to the finals, claiming they are only maintaining a long-running prohibition on the grounds of safety . . . Bulgaria ban media and spectators from their first training session . . . Saudi Arabia cancel two planned training matches against Northern Ireland and South Jersey All-Stars . . . FIFA president recommends that Brazil pair up Romario and Ronaldo in attack; while Pele tips Brazil to win whoever they pick . . . Italy are mobbed on arrival at Newark but will miss slightly injured Maldini in their last warm-up, against Costa Rica; goalkeeper Pagliuca says he will not be distracted from the World Cup task by reports of an impending transfer from Sampdoria to Inter.

**THU 9 JUN**

**ACTION:** Bolivia draw 0-0 with Peru.

**SPAIN:** Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza says he is close to agreement on personal terms with Inter's Uruguayan, Ruben Sosa . . . Atletico Madrid confirm the impending arrival of Colombia's Francisco Maturana as coach after the World Cup.

**UNITED STATES:** Alan Rothenberg says ticket sales are on course for a World Cup record.

**FRI 10 JUN**

**PORTUGAL:** Success in Portugal for coach Bobby Robson *(below)* as Porto beat Sporting 2-1 in the Cup Final replay.

# COACHES TO STAR AT SOCCER SHOW

FOOTBALL COACHES & TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

**THE National Football Show at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester on 20 & 21 August will stage its first International Coaches Convention.**

Based at Manchester's Britannia Hotel during the Show, the Convention will provide a platform for an international exchange of ideas and concepts in coaching.

**Practical demonstrations by top coaches will take place at the Kendal Sports Club and the G-Mex Centre.**

Organised by the National Football Show, the Convention will also feature seminars from experts in such diverse but related subjects as diet and fitness, prevention and treatment of Injury, and the structure and future potential and influence of the Japanese Football League.

**Adding valuable support to the event will be AFCAT (The Association of Football Coaches and Teachers) — the country's leading independent coaches association. AFCAT is sponsored by adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* and the Coaches Convention will be actively promoted to its membership of 1,000.**

"We are delighted to support the National Football Show's International Coaches Convention. This gives AFCAT yet another opportunity to provide grass roots football with expert coaching support in the field of player development," said AFCAT representative Rob Littleford.

**The wide range of seminars will be chaired by respected football figures, including Dave Bingham (Ipswich Town physio), Jane Nottage (Italian Diet and Fitness), Julia Helmsley (Women's Football Development) and Bill Neswick (Motivation).**

Expert coaches attending and demonstrating at the Convention will include Welsh team manager Mike Smith, Crewe Alexandra's Dario Gradi, Ajax goalkeeper coach Frans Hoek and Martin Clark of Coerver Coaching.

**"The National Football Show is the biggest and best of its kind anywhere," says football project organiser and former amateur England international Mike Mellows. "It will provide the perfect setting for our first International Coaches Convention.**

"With the backdrop of the World Cup and given all the recent events and controversies surrounding soccer there has never been a time when there has been so much debate about the future of the game.

**"The convention will open up and continue that debate, and be of immense interest to everyone who has anything to do with football development, whether it be on or off the grounds or terraces of the world."**

The National Football Show International Coaches Convention is open to all those with an interest in player development, and related activities.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL SHOW 1994

For More information on the practical demonstrations, seminars, other activities, participation and accommodation contact: Mike Mellows on (0705) 219230, International Coaches Convention.

For information on The National Football Show, please contact: Maggie Bridgman, International Football Shows Ltd on (0705) 498555.

# RESULTS *Austria Wien win Austrian Cup . . . FC Porto win Portuguese Cup . . . Hir*

## EUROPE

## AUSTRIA

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 5 JUNE*

MIDWEEK

**AUSTRIA WIEN 0**
**STURM GRAZ 0**

**VfB MODLING 0**
**ADMIRA WACKER 3**

**VORWARTS STEYR 1**
**SALZBURG 3**

**INNSBRUCK 6**
**SPORTCLUB 0**

**ST POLTEN 1**
**RAPID WIEN 1**

WEEKEND

**SPORTCLUB 0**
**AUSTRIA WIEN 3**

**ADMIRA WACKER 3**
**ST POLTEN 1**

**STURM GRAZ 2**
**MODLING 1**

**RAPID WIEN 0**
**SALZBURG 0**

**INNSBRUCK 4**
**VORWARTS STEYR 2**

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 12 JUNE*

MIDWEEK

**VORWARTS STEYR 0**
**RAPID WIEN 1**

**SALZBURG 2**
**ADMIRA WACKER 0**

**ST POLTEN 2**
**STURM GRAZ 1**

**AUSTRIA WIEN 1**
**INNSBRUCK 0**

WEEKEND

***AUSTRIAN CUP — FINAL***

**AUSTRIA WIEN 4**
**LINZ 0**

**AUSTRIA — *Final table***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria Salzburg | 36 | 21 | 9 | 6 | 56 | 18 | 51 |
| Austria Wien | 36 | 22 | 5 | 9 | 63 | 39 | 49 |
| Admira Wacker | 36 | 18 | 8 | 10 | 51 | 35 | 44 |
| Innsbruck | 36 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 48 | 32 | 39 |
| Rapid Wien | 36 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 38 | 42 | 35 |
| VfB Modling | 36 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 32 | 49 | 35 |
| Sturm Graz | 36 | 12 | 9 | 15 | 37 | 42 | 33 |
| Vorwarts Steyr | 36 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 42 | 54 | 26 |
| St Polten | 36 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 37 | 57 | 26 |
| Sportclub | 36 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 21 | 57 | 22 |

***LEADING SCORERS***

1 ...Nikola **JURCEVIC** (Salzburg) .....14
Heimo **PFEIFENBERGER** (Salzburg)..14
3 ...Vaclav **DANEK** (Admira Wacker)..12
4 ...Ralph **HASENHUTTL** (Austria Wien)...11

## PORTUGAL

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 22 MAY*

WEEKEND

**SETUBAL 4** (Chiquinho Conde 24, Yekini 52, 56, 90)
**SALGUEIROS 0**. **Att:** 12,000.

**BELENENSES 1** (Viera 78)
**PACOS FERREIRA 1** (Joao Batista 90 pen). **Att:** 5,000.

**AMADORA 1** (Ricardo 57)
**BRAGA 1** (Barroso 80 pen). **Att:** 8,000.

**SPORTING 3** (Paulo Torres 30 pen, 75 pen, Figo 80)
**FAMALICAO 0**. **Att:** 15,000.

**UNIAO 1** (Lepi 63)
**MARITIMO 1** (P. Alves 16). **Att:** 12,000.

**GIL VICENTE 0**
**BENFICA 3** (Joao Pinto 3, 74, Kulkov 86). **Att:** 35,000.

**GIUMARAES 1** (Paulo Benyto 1)
**BEIRA-MAR 2** (Punisic 49, Jorge Silverio 75). **Att:** 10,000.

**BOAVISTA 3** (Luvisno 7, 43, Ricky 90)
**ESTORIL 0**. **Att:** 6,300.

**FC PORTO 1** (Vinha 51)
**FARENSE 0**. **Att:** 15,000.

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 29*

WEEKEND

**ESTORIL 0**
**FC PORTO 1** (Drulovic 77). **Att:** 5,000.

**BEIRA-MAR 1** (Punisic 71 pen)
Luciano 44)
**BOAVISTA 1** (Luciano 44). **Att:** 8,600.

**BRAGA 1** (Fernando Pires 44)
**SPORTING 1** (Figo 34). **Att:** 15,000.

**PACOS FERREIRA 1** (Jose Maria 35)
**AMADORA 0**. **Att:** 9,200.

**SALGUEIROS 1** (Joni 70)
**BELENENSES 0**. **Att:** 7,000.

**SETUBAL 2** (Chiquinho Conde 48, 90)
**FARENSE 0**. **Att:** 10,000.

**BENFICA 0**
**GUIMARAES 0**. **Att:** 120,000.

**MARITIMO 0**
**GIL VICENTE 0**. **Att:** 12,567.

**FAMALICAO 0**
**UNIAO 0**. **Att:** 8,450.

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 5 JUNE*

MIDWEEK

**FC PORTO 0**
**BEIRA-MAR 0**. **Att:** 20,000.

**BOAVISTA 1** (Ricky 83)
**BENFICA 0**. **Att:** 28,000.

**GUIMARAES 0**
**MARITIMO 1** (Vado 90). **Att:** 5,000.

**GIL VICENTE 1** (Mangonda 78)
**FAMALICAO 0**. **Att:** 4,000.

**UNIAO 3** (Jokanovic 15, Lepi 22, Tico 53)
**BRAGA 1** (Barroso 57 pen). **Att:** 2,000.

**SPORTING 3** (Carlos Jorge 28, 73, Paulo Tomas 87)
**PACOS FERREIRA 1** (Paulo Sergio 54). **Att:** 10,000.

**AMADORA 3** (Ricardo 27, Mazo 36, Fernando 55)
**SALGUEIROS 1** (Toni 6). **Att:** 3,000.

**FARENSE 1** (Hajry 87)
**ESTORIL 2** (Oliveiro Pinto 1, Christian 73). **Att:** 6,000.

**BELENENSES 1** (Ednilson 30)
**SETUBAL 2** (Chiquinho Carlos 37, Teixeira 73 og). **Att:** 7,000.

***PORTUGUESE CUP — FINAL***

**SPORTING 0**
**FC PORTO 0**. **Att:** 63,000. (aet).

### *WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 12*

***PORTUGUESE CUP — FINAL, REPLAY***

**SPORTING 1** (Vujacic 55)
**FC PORTO 2**. (Rui Jorge 35, Aloisio 91). **Att:** 48,000. (aet).

**PORTUGAL — *Final table***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 34 | 23 | 8 | 3 | 73 | 25 | 54 |
| FC Porto | 34 | 21 | 10 | 3 | 56 | 15 | 52 |
| Sporting | 34 | 23 | 5 | 6 | 71 | 29 | 51 |
| Boavista | 34 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 46 | 31 | 38 |
| Maritimo | 34 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 45 | 40 | 38 |
| V Setubal | 34 | 14 | 6 | 14 | 56 | 42 | 34 |
| Estrela Amadora | 34 | 9 | 15 | 10 | 39 | 36 | 33 |
| Guimaraes | 34 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 30 | 31 | 33 |
| Farense | 34 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 44 | 46 | 33 |
| Uniao Madeira | 34 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 36 | 42 | 31 |
| Salgueiros | 34 | 14 | 3 | 17 | 48 | 56 | 31 |
| Gil Vicente | 34 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 27 | 47 | 31 |
| Belenenses | 34 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 39 | 51 | 30 |
| Beira-Mar | 34 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 28 | 38 | 29 |
| Sporting Braga | 34 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 33 | 43 | 28 |
| Pacos Ferreira | 34 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 31 | 49 | 26 |
| Famalicao | 34 | 7 | 8 | 19 | 26 | 72 | 22 |
| Estoril | 34 | 5 | 8 | 21 | 22 | 57 | 18 |

***LEADING SCORERS***

1 ...Rachidi **YEKINI** (Setubal) .....21
2 ...Ljubinko **DRULOVIC** (FC Porto) ...18
3 ...Emil **KOSTADINOV** (FC Porto) ....16
4 ...Nader **HASSAN** (Farense).....15
Chiquinho **CONDE** (Setubal) .....15
Krasimir **BALAKOV** (Sporting).....15

## INTERNATIONAL

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**

**May 25 = Santiago — friendly**
**CHILE 2** (Mendoza 12, Zamorano 44)
**PERU 1** (Fuentes og 14)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Farina (Par)
**Chile:** Marcelo Ramirez — Mendoza (Silva 70), R Fuentes, Margas, Ardiman — Miguel Ramirez, Tupper (Gonzalez 30), Parraguez, Valencia (Sierra 54) — Zamorano, Barrera (Salas 58).
**Peru:** Pizarro — Jorge Soto, Reinoso (Dulanto 6), Jose Soto, Olivares — Carranza, Rodriguez, Palacios, Palominas (Munoz 46) — Baroni (Maestri 46), Rivera (Solano 60).

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2**

**Jun 2 = Riga — friendly**
**LATVIA 2** (Droupass 41, Astafyev 47)
**MALTA 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** O Timofeyev (Est).
**Latvia:** Karavayev (Laizans 70) — Troitsky, Shevlyakov, Sprogis, Monyak (Gnedoy 64), Yemelyanov, Astafyev, Shtolcers (Yeliseyev 46), Ivanov, Babichev (Erglis 73), Droupass.
**Malta:** Sullivan — Galea, Buhagiar, Buttigieg, Vella, Spiteri (Suda 23), Brincat, Saliba, Gregory, Busutill, Laferla.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 7**

**Jun 7 = Wakefield, Mass. — friendly**
**ECUADOR 2** (Ron 31, 77)
**SOUTH KOREA 1** (Hong Myung-bo 60 pen)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,000.
**Ecuador:** Espinoza — Coronel, B Tenorio, Montano, M Tenorio, Capurro, Garay*, Klever Fajardo (Gavica 77), Chala, Ron, Vernaza (Carcelen 69).
** Garay sent off, 40mins.*
**S Korea:** Choi In-young (Park Chul-wu 46) — Hong Myung-bo, Shin Hong-gi, Park Jung-bae, Kim Pan-keun, Choi Young-il, Ko Jeong-woon (Ha Seok-ju 65), Lee Young-jin (Noh Jung-yoon 46), Choi Dae-shik (Lee Jung-wa 46), Kim Joo-sung (Choi Jin-ho 65), Hwang Sun-hong.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8**

**Jun 8 = Adelaide — friendly**
**AUSTRALIA 1** (Aurelio Vidmar 11)
**SOUTH AFRICA 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,203.

**Jun 8 = Toronto — friendly**
**CANADA 0**
**GERMANY 2** (Sammer 31, Voller 89)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lodge (Eng)
**Canada:** Forrest — Yallop, Samuel, Watson (Doliscat 46), Fraser (Carter 54), Dasovic (Mobilio 59), Aunger (Norman 65), Miller, Hooper (Limniatis 73), Berdusco (Catliff 46), Corazzin.
**Germany:** Illgner — Matthaus — Berthold, Kohler (Helmer 46), Brehme — Sammer, Strunz (Gaudino 67), Basler (Kuntz 80), Hassler (Wagner 85), Voller, Klinsmann (Riedle 46).

**Jun 8 = Brussels — friendly**
**BELGIUM 3** (Weber 6, Degryse 36, Nilis 65)
**HUNGARY 1** (Jagodics 54)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 16,000.
**Belgium:** Preud'homme — Grun, De Wolf, Albert (Smidts 46), Boffin (Borkelmans 46), Staelens, Van der Elst, Scifo, Degryse, Weber (Wilmots 80), Nilis (Emmers 80).
**Hungary:** Vegh — Kuttor, Meszoly, Puglits, Lipcsei, Marton, Csertoi, Halmai, Klausz (T Dombi 17), T Balog, Jagodics.

**Jun 8 = Santa Cruz — friendly**
**BOLIVIA 0**
**PERU 0**
**Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Saucedo (Bol)
Bolivia: Trucco — Rimba, Quinteros, Sandy, Cristaldo, Borja (Ramos) — Melgar, Sanchez, Baldivieso (Soruco) — Pena (Ramallo), Moreno (Castillo).
**Peru:** Pizarro — Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Ruiz, Olivares, Mario Rodriguez, Palacios, Solano, Jayo — Maestri, Rivera (Dulando).

**Jun 8 = San Diego — friendly**
**BRAZIL 8** (Romario 1, 31, 60, Bebeto 37, 56, Cafu 74, Dunga 81, Rai 86)
**HONDURAS 2** (Calix 52, Flores 62)
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Savic (US)
**Brazil:** Taffarel — Jorginho (Cafu 38), Aldair, Ricardo Gomes (Marcio Santos 66), Mauro Silva, Leonardo — Bebeto (Ronaldo 61), Dunga, Zinho (Muller 46), Rai — Romario (Viola 61).
**Honduras:** Wilmer Cruz — Williams, Ramon Castro, Garcia, Arnold Cruz, Pelota, Rochez (Ariola 46), Obando (Pavon 61), Calix (Gonzales (54), Flores, Suazo (Nunes 46).

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10**

**Jun 10 = Montreal — friendly**
**CANADA 0**
**SPAIN 2** (Salinas 9, Juanele 89)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Reed (Eng)
**Canada:** Dolan — Yallop, McDonald, Doliscat (Carter 46), Fraser — Miller, Hooper (Limniatis 59), Dasovic, Aunger — Corazzin (Berdusco 46), Catliff (Norman 64).
**Spain:** Canizares — Ferrer (Beguristain 57), Abelardo, Nadal, Alkorta, Sergi (Camarasa 74) — Guerrero (Otero 57), Caminero, Goikoetxea (Guardiola 57) — Luis Enrique, Salinas (Juanele 58).

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

**Jun 11 = Duncansville, Dallas — friendly**
**SOUTH KOREA 3** (Ko Jeong-woon 7, Hwang Sun-hong 37, Kim Joo-sung 77)
**HONDURAS 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 1,400. **Ref:** Z Boulos (US).
**South Korea:** Park Chul-woo (Lee Won-jae 46) — Hong Myung-bo, Shin Hong-gi, Choi Young-il, Kim Pan-keun, Park Jung-bae (Ahn Ik-soo 46), Kim Joo-sung, Lee Young-jin, Ko Jeong-woon, Noh Jung-yoon, Hwang Sun-hong (Ha Seok-ju 80).
**Honduras:** Padills — Cruz, Castro, Arzu, Flores*, Obando (Pavon 58), Suazo (Nunez 46), Williams, Gonzales (Rochez 46), Garcia, Hernandez (Peralta 46).
** Flores sent off, 78mins.*

**Jun 11 = Montreal — friendly**
**SWITZERLAND 0**
**BOLIVIA 0**
**Att:** 4,655.
**Bolivia:** Trucco — Sandy, Rimba, Quinteros, Borja (Soruco), Melgar, Soria, Ramallo (Moreno), Cristaldo, Sanchez (Ramos), Baldivieso.
**Switzerland:** Pascolo (Lehmann) — Hottiger, Quentin, Herr, Geiger, Bregy, Sutter, Ohrel, Knup (Subiat), Sforza (Bickel), Chapuisat.

**Jun 11 = Miami — friendly**
**MEXICO 3** (Luis Garcia 18 pen, 30, Hermosillo 77)
**N IRELAND 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 8,498.
**Mexico:** Campos — Ambriz, Gutierrez, Ramirez Perales, Ramirez, Suarez, Bernal, Del Olmo, Zague, Luis Garcia (Galindo 47), Sanchez (Hermosillo 69).
**N Ireland:** Fettis (Wright 46) — Fleming (Morrow 74), Worthington, Taggart, Donaghy, Magilton (Patterson 46), Hughes, K Wilson (N Lennon 46), J Quinn (Dowie 46), O'Boyle, Lomas.

**Jun 11 = New Haven — friendly**
**ITALY 1** (Signori 64)
**COSTA RICA 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 23,500. **Ref:** E Baharmast (US).
**Italy:** Pagliuca — Tassotti, Benarrivo, D Baggio (Donadoni 46), Costacurta, Baresi, Berti (Massaro 46), Albertini, Signori, R Baggio, Evani.
**Costa Rica:** Rojas — Delgado, Montero, Smith, Parks, Rodriguez (Solano 83), Solis, Gutrie, Gomez, Meyers (Fonseca 73), Medford.

**Jun 11 = Ibadan — friendly**
**NIGERIA 5** (Yekini 11, 43, Siasia 58, 60, Adepoju 65)
**GEORGIA 1** (Kezu 12)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 9,000.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12**

**Jun 12 = Toronto — friendly**
**CANADA 0**
**HOLLAND 3** (Bergkamp 7, Overmars 13, Rijkaard 37)
**Canada:** Forrest — Samuel, Yallop, Fraser, Carter, Dasovic, Aunger, Hooper (Norman 46), Miller (Fenwick 65), Berdusco (Limniatis 78), Corazzin (Catliff 46).
**Holland:** De Goey — F De Boer, Rijkaard (Van Gobbel 68), Koeman, Valckx (Witschge 46), Jonk, Overmars, Wouters, R De Boer (Van Vossen 46), Bergkamp, Roy (Bosman 78).

**Jun 12 — friendly**
**EL SALVADOR 0**
**BRAZIL 4**

**FRIDAY, JULY 8**

**Jul 8 = Nagoya — Asics Cup**
**JAPAN 3** (Miura 10, 27, Natsuka 72)
**GHANA 2** (Aboagye 2, Asare 34)
**HT:** 2-2. **Att:** 20,933.
**Japan:** Honnami — Ihara, Moriyama, Natsuka, Endo, Iwamoto, T Hashiratani, Moriyasu, Miura, Yamaguchi, Ogura.
**Ghana:** Nanor, Asare, Mbeah, Baidoo, Opoku, P Opoku, Lamptey, Ohene, Amadu, Aboagye, Duah.

## SOUTH AMERICA

**1994 LIBERTADORES CUP**
**First Round**
**Group 1**
**(Colombia — Paraguay)**

02.03.94 Olimpia (P) v Cerro Portena (P) .1-0
04.03.93 Junior (C) v Indep Medelin (C) ..0-1
09.03.94 Indep Medellin v Olimpia.....0-0
12.03.93 Junior v Olimpia .....0-0
16.03.94 Indep Medellin v Cerro Porteno 3-0
18.03.94 Junior v Cerro Porteno .....3-2
24.03.94 Indep Medellin v Junior.....0-1
24.03.94 Cerro Porteno v Olimpia.....1-3
05.04.94 Olimpia v Indep Medellin.....0-2
08.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Indep Medellin 0-0
12.04.94 Olimpia v Junior .....1-0
15.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Junior .....1-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indep Medellin | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Olimpia | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Jun. Barranqilla | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Cerro Porteno | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 3 |

**Group 2**
**(Argentina — Brazil)**

13.02.94 Velez (A) v Boca Juniors (A).....1-1
02.03.94 Palmeiras (B) v Cruzeiro (B).....2-0
09.03.94 Cruzeiro v Velez Sarsfield.....1-1
09.03.94 Palmeiras v Boca Juniors.....6-1
16.03.94 Boca Juniors v Cruzeiro.....1-2
17.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Palmeiras .....1-0
23.03.94 Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield..1-2
25.03.94 Cruzeiro v Palmeiras .....2-1
30.03.94 Boca Juniors v Palmeiras.....2-1
31.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Cruzeiro.....2-0
06.04.94 Cruzeiro v Boca Juniors.....2-1
07.04.94 Palmeiras v Velez Sarsfield .....4-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Velez Sarsfield | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Cruzeiro | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Palmeiras | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 7 | 6 |
| Boca Juniors | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 3 |

**Group 3**
**(Ecuador — Peru)**

02.03.94 Universitario (P) v Alianza (P).....0-1
02.03.94 Emelec (E) v Barcelona (E) .....0-1
08.03.94 Barcelona v Universitario .....0-0
11.03.94 Emelec v Universitario.....2-0
15.03.94 Barcelona v Alianza.....3-0
18.03.94 Emelec v Alianza .....3-0
23.03.94 Alianza v Universitario .....1-2
23.03.94 Barcelona v Emelec.....0-1
05.04.94 Alianza v Barcelona.....2-1
08.04.94 Universitario v Barcelona .....0-0
12.04.94 Alianza v Emelec .....2-2
15.04.94 Universitario v Emelec.....2-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Emelec | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| Universitario | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Barcelona | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Alianza | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 5 |

**Group 4**
**(Chile — Uruguay)**

02.03.94 U. Espanola (C) v Colo Colo (C) 1-2
02.03.94 Defensor (U) v Nacional (U).....1-0
08.03.94 Union Espanola v Defensor.....1-0
13.03.94 Colo Colo v Defensor .....2-0
15.03.94 Union Espanola v Nacional .....1-0
18.03.94 Colo Colo v Nacional.....4-2
23.03.94 Colo Colo v Union Espanola ....3-1
23.03.94 Nacional v Defensor.....1-1
05.04.94 Defensor v Colo Colo .....0-0
08.04.94 Nacional v Colo Colo.....2-0
12.04.94 Defensor v Union Espanola.....1-1
15.04.94 Nacional v Union Espanola .....0-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colo Colo | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 9 |
| Union Espanola | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Defensor | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Nacional | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 |

**Group 5**
**(Bolivia — Venezuela)**

23.02.94 Minerven (V) v Maritimo (V).....2-1
23.02.94 Bolivar (B) v The Strongest (B) ..0-0
01.03.94 Minerven v Bolivar.....1-1
04.03.94 Maritimo v Bolivar .....0-2
08.03.94 Minerven v The Strongest .....5-0
11.03.94 Maritimo v The Strongest.....1-1
16.03.94 The Strongest v Bolivar.....0-0
16.03.94 Maritimo v Minerven.....4-1
22.03.94 Bolivar v Minerven.....4-0
25.03.94 The Strongest v Minerven .....7-1
05.04.94 Bolivar v Maritimo .....2-1
08.04.94 The Strongest v Maritimo.....5-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bolivar | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| The Strongest | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 7 |
| Minerven | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 5 |
| Maritimo | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 3 |

**Second Round**
**1st Leg**

14.04.94 Bolivar v The Stongest .....2-1
20.04.94 Junior v Colo Colo.....1-1
20.04.94 Universitario v Indep Medellin...2-1
20.04.94 Minerven v Emelec .....2-0
20.04.94 Barcelona v Olimpia.....0-1
21.04.94 Union Espanola v Cruzeiro.....1-0
21.04.94 Defensor v Velez Sarsfield.....1-1
27.04.94 Palmeiras v Sao Paulo .....0-0
● *Sao Paulo qualified as holders*

**2nd Leg**

24.04.94 The Strongest v Bolivar.....0-4
*Bolivar won 6-1 on agg*
27.04.94 Colo Colo v Junior.....2-2
*agg: 3-3, Colo Colo won 4-3 on pens*
27.04.94 Indep Medellin v Universitario...2-0
*Indep Medellin won 3-2 on agg*
27.04.94 Emelec v Minerven.....3-1
*agg: 3-3, Minerven won 4-0 on pens*
27.04.94 Olimpia v Barcelona .....2-1
*Olimpia won 3-1 on agg*
27.04.94 Velez Sarsfield v Defensor.....0-0
*agg: 1-1, Velez won 4-3 on pens*
28.04.94 Cruzeiro v Union Espanola.....0-0
*Union Espanola won 1-0 on agg*
20.07.94 Sao Paulo v Palmeiras

**Quarter-finals**
**1st Leg**

27.07.94 Olimpia v Bolivar
27.07.94 Indep Medellin v Velez Sarsfield
27.07.94 Minerven v Colo Colo
27.07.94 Union Espanola v Sao Paulo/Palmeiras

**2nd Leg**

03.08.94 Bolivar v Olimpia

03.08.94 Velez Sarsfield v Indep Medellin
03.08.94 Colo Colo v Minerven
03.08.94 Sao Paulo/Palmeiras v Union Espanola

**Semi-finals**
*First Leg* — Wednesday, Aug 10
*Second Leg* — Wednesday, Aug 17

**Final**
*First Leg* — Wednesday, Aug 24
*Second Leg* — Wednesday, Aug 31

## JAPAN

### *J.LEAGUE — SUNTORY SERIES*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

**YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1** (Amarilla 35)
**VERDY KAWASAKI 1** (Nishizawa 74). **Att:** 55,014.
*Flugels won 5-3 on pens.*

**URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1** (Rummenigge 77 pen)
**KASHIMA ANTLERS 4** (Hasegawa 13, Alcindo 51, 56 pen, Zico 78). **Att:** 9,674.

**YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3** (Bisconti 44 pen, T. Suzuki 64, Jinno 75)
**GAMBA OSAKA 2** (Protasov 15, 17). **Att:** 17,022.

**SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 4** (Hasek 53, Yanagimoto 67, Takagi 73, Moriyasu 85)
**JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2** (Echigo 72, 89). **Att:** 13,064.

**NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0**
**SHIMIZU S PULSE 1** (Toninho 113). **Att:** 38,239.

**BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1** (Almire 47)
**JUBILO IWATA 2** (M. Suzuki 43, Noguchi 77). **Att:** 15,129.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

**JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0**
**NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1** (Jorginho 64). **Att:** 10,516.

**KASHIMA ANTLERS 4** (Alcindo 9, 62, Zico 31, 73)
**BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0**. **Att:** 16,058.

**SHIMIZU S PULSE 4** (Toninho 13, 71 pen, 89, Yasutoshi Miura 57)
**GAMBA OSAKA 1** (Kiyama 88). **Att:** 10,351.

**JUBILO IWATA 1** (Masahiro Endo 29)
**SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2** (Takagi 38, Cerny 69). **Att:** 14,773.

**YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2** (Diaz 80, Komura 93)
**YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1** (Edu 37). **Att:** 16,671.

**VERDY KAWASAKI 3** (Miura 32, Takeda 42, 54)
**URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0**. **Att:** 10,597.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1

**VERDY KAWASAKI 2** (Hashiratani 55, Takeda 69)
**NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1** (Moriyama 78). **Att:** 10,591.

**JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1** (Jo 17)
**SHIMIZU S PULSE 2** (Toninho 86, Iwashita 108). **Att:** 54,656.

**URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0**
**JUBILO IWATA 1** (Yonezawa 89). **Att:** 9,408.

**YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3** (Harada 20, Maeda 70, Tasaka o.g. 88)
**BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0**. **Att:** 14,051.

**SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1** (Hasek 72 pen)
**YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2** (Bisconti 30, Diaz 33). **Att:** 13,416.

**GAMBA OSAKA 1** (Aleinikov 20)
**KASHIMA ANTLERS 3** (Santos 12, Zico 53, Yoshida 61). **Att:** 21,624.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

**GAMBA OSAKA 1** (Yamaguchi 24)
**VERDY KAWASAKI 3** (Miura 11, 22, Kitazawa 87). **Att:** 21,829.

**SHIMIZU S PULSE 1** (Nagashima 82)
**SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2** (Takagi 49, 61). **Att:** 10,361.

**BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2** (Watanabe 16, Betinho 38 pen)
**URAWA RED DIAMONDS 4** (Yoshiaki Sato 9, 69, Luhovy 46, Nobuyasu Ikeda 65). **Att:** 14,832.

**JUBILO IWATA 2** (Fujita 48, 78)
**JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 3** (Ordenewitz 56, 83 pen, Jo 60). **Att:** 14,764.

**NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2** (Hirano 10, Ihara og 26)
**YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0**. **Att:** 12,190.

**KASHIMA ANTLERS 3** (Alcindo 61, 86, Masuda 78)
**YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2** (Maeda 41, Amarilla 89). **Att:** 16,270.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

**JUBILO IWATA 1** (Vanenburg 65)
**KASHIMA ANTLERS 2** (Akita 12, Zico 21). **Att:** 14,634.

**GAMBA OSAKA 3** (Shimada 48, Protasov 65, Aleinikov 74)
**JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0**. **Att:** 21,440.

**NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1** (Moriyama 66)
**SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0**. **Att:** 16,547.

**URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2** (Hirose 25, Asano 108)
**YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1** (Noda 67). **Att:** 9,822.

**BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0**
**VERDY KAWASAKI 3** (Takeda 31, Miura 64, 69). **Att:** 15,448.

**YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1** (Hattori 83)
**SHIMIZU S PULSE 2** (Nagashima 54, 69). **Att:** 26,972.

### *J.LEAGUE SUNTORY SERIES — FINAL TABLE*

| | P | W | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sanfrecce Hiroshima | 22 | 17 | 5 | 44 | 26 |
| Shimizu S Pulse | 22 | 16 | 6 | 41 | 25 |
| Kashima Antlers | 22 | 16 | 6 | 45 | 32 |
| Verdy Kawasaki | 22 | 14 | 8 | 43 | 21 |
| Yokohama Flugels | 22 | 13 | 9 | 36 | 27 |
| Jef United Ichihara | 22 | 10 | 12 | 34 | 43 |
| Jubilo Iwata | 22 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 32 |
| Grampus Eight | 22 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 28 |
| Yokohama Marinos | 22 | 8 | 14 | 29 | 35 |
| Gamba Osaka | 22 | 7 | 15 | 37 | 46 |
| Bellmare Hiratsuka | 22 | 7 | 15 | 27 | 54 |
| Urawa RD | 22 | 6 | 16 | 26 | 43 |

UEFA euro96 England ™

**1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

**GROUP 1**
***(France, Romania, Poland, Israel, Slovakia, Azerbaijan)***

04.09.94 Israel v Poland
07.09.94 Slovakia v France
07.09.94 Romania v Azerbaijan
08.10.94 France v Romania
12.10.94 Israel v Slovakia
12.10.94 Poland v Azerbaijan
12.11.94 Romania v Slovakia
16.11.94 Poland v France
16.11.94 Azerbaijan v Israel
14.12.94 Azerbaijan v France
14.12.94 Israel v Romania
29.03.95 Romania v Poland
29.03.95 Israel v France
29.03.95 Slovakia v Azerbaijan
25.04.95 Poland v Israel
26.04.95 France v Slovakia
26.04.95 Azerbaijan v Romania
07.06.95 Poland v Slovakia
07.06.95 Romania v Israel
16.08.95 France v Poland
16.08.95 Azerbaijan v Slovakia
06.09.95 France v Azerbaijan
06.09.95 Slovakia v Israel

# lotto

## X WORD

Compiled by Christine Ansell

**LAST MONTH'S WINNER:**
**DETLEF NEUMANN OF SOLINGEN, GERMANY.**

**LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION**
**Across:** 7 Ewane, 8 Opoku, 9 Knaller, 10 Agu, 11 Vegh, 13 Zarb, 17 Pin, 18 Croatia, 20 Rolff, 21 Maguy
**Down:** 1 Metkov, 2 Vava, 3 Vejle, 4 Moore, 5 Moraka, 6 Kumu, 12 Ginola, 14 Bwalya, 15 Scifo, 16 Norma, 17 Pori, 19 Togo

# WIN

A Lotto Football — for the first correct entry. Fill in this month's crossword and send it, by August 15, to:

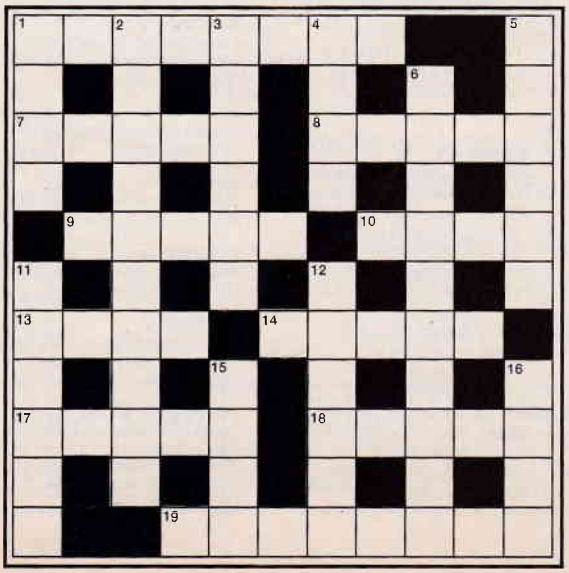
***WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD* (AUGUST), King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.**

### ACROSS

**1** .....Swaziland's Mbabane (8)
**7** .....40 year old 'keeper at Eintracht (5)
**8** .....Clwyd-born Leeds United and Wales midfielder (5)
**9** .....Miguel Mejia . . . . . : Former UNAM star in charge of Mexico (5)
**10** ...Estonia's national colour (4)
**13** ...Northern Irish league club from Castlereagh Park, Co. Down (4)
**14** ...Torino's ex-Parma defender capped by Italy (5)
**17** ...Ex-Portimonense and Portugal forward with Benfica from '89 (5)
**18** ...Nigerian international full-back in Holland with Vitesse Arnhem (5)

### DOWN

**1** .....Uruguayan striker successful at both Lazio and Inter (4)
**2** .....Prolific ex-Veria AEK Marksman capped by Greece (6)
**3** .....City which staged the 1993 European Cup-winners Cup Final (6)
**4** .....Aarau and Switzerland midfielder once with Grasshopper and St Gallen (4)
**5** .....Former Porto star coaching his native Algeria (6)
**6** .....Milan president at the top of Italy's political ladder (10)
**11** ...Englishman coach Malta's Hibernians (6)
**12** ...Promising Young Poland international snapped up by Rapid Vienna (6)
**15** ...Former Napoli and Italy midfield man at Parma (4)
**16** ...Feyenoord's ex-RKC defensive midfielder with Dutch U-21 caps (4)



NAME

ADDRESS

# RESULTS . . . Euro '96 fixtures . . . 1996 African Nations Cup schedule . . .

06.09.95 Poland v Romania
11.10.95 Romania v France
11.10.95 Israel v Azerbaijan
11.10.95 Slovakia v Poland
15.11.95 Slovakia v Romania
15.11.95 Azerbaijan v Poland
15.11.95 France v Israel

### GROUP 2
***(Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Macedonia, Cyprus, Armenia)***

07.04.94 Cyprus v Spain
07.09.94 Macedonia v Denmark
07.09.94 Belgium v Armenia
08.10.94 Armenia v Cyprus
12.10.94 Denmark v Belgium
12.10.94 Macedonia v Spain
16.11.94 Belgium v Macedonia
16.11.94 Spain v Denmark
16.11.94 Cyprus v Armenia
17.12.94 Belgium v Spain
17.12.94 Macedonia v Cyprus
29.03.95 Spain v Belgium
29.03.95 Cyprus v Denmark
26.04.95 Armenia v Spain
26.04.95 Belgium v Cyprus
26.04.95 Denmark v Macedonia
10.05.95 Armenia v Macedonia
07.06.95 Denmark v Cyprus
07.06.95 Macedonia v Belgium
07.06.95 Spain v Armenia
16.08.95 Armenia v Denmark
06.09.95 Belgium v Denmark
06.09.95 Spain v Cyprus
06.09.95 Macedonia v Armenia
07.10.95 Armenia v Belgium
11.10.95 Denmark v Spain
11.10.95 Cyprus v Macedonia
15.11.95 Spain v Macedonia
15.11.95 Cyprus v Belgium
15.11.95 Denmark v Armenia

### GROUP 3
***(Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Iceland, Turkey)***

07.09.94 Iceland v Sweden
07.09.94 Hungary v Turkey
12.10.94 Turkey v Iceland
12.10.94 Switzerland v Sweden
16.11.94 Switzerland v Iceland
16.11.94 Sweden v Hungary
14.12.94 Turkey v Switzerland
29.03.95 Turkey v Sweden
29.03.95 Hungary v Switzerland
26.04.95 Hungary v Sweden
26.04.95 Switzerland v Turkey
01.06.95 Sweden v Iceland
11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v Iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

### GROUP 4
***(Italy, Ukraine, Croatia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia)***

04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

### GROUP 5
***(Holland, Norway, Czech Republic, Byelorussia, Malta, Luxembourg)***

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg
12.10.94 Norway v Holland
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep
14.12.94 Malta v Norway
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway
29.03.95 Holland v Malta
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

### GROUP 6
***(Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Austria, Latvia, Liechtenstein)***

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein.....4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

### GROUP 7
***(Germany, Wales, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania, Moldova)***

07.09.94 Wales v Albania
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia
16.11.94 Albania v Germany
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia
18.12.94 Germany v Albania
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova
26.04.95 Germany v Wales
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

### GROUP 8
***(Russia, Greece, Scotland, Finland, Faroe Islands, San Marino)***

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands
12.10.94 Greece v Finland
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland
26.04.95 Greece v Russia
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

## AFRICA

### 1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

***Preliminary Round***
Rwanda v Central African Republic
*1st leg match to be played in Kigali on June 12, 1995 with the return game on June 26*

**GROUP 1**
Swaziland, Cameroon, Zaire, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho.

**GROUP 2**
Guinea Bissau, Tunisia, Liberia, Togo, Senegal, Mauritania.

**GROUP 3**
Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Niger, Rwanda or Central African Republic.

**GROUP 4**
Ethiopia, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda.

**GROUP 5**
Gabon, Zambia, Madagascar, South Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles.

**GROUP 6**
Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Guinea, Mali, Mozambique.

**GROUP 7**
Burkina Faso, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Benin, Cape Verde Islands.

***First Round***
Swaziland v Cameroon (G1)
Zaire v Malawi (G1)
Zimbabwe v Lesotho (G1)
Guinea Bissau v Tunisia (G2)
Liberia v Togo (G2)
Senegal v Mauritania (G2)
Congo v Gambia (G3)
Ghana v Sierra Leone (G3)
CAR or Rwanda v Niger (G3)
Ethiopia v Algeria (G4)
Sudan v Egypt (G4)
Tanzania v Uganda (G4)
Gabon v Zambia (G5)
Madagascar v South Africa (G5)
Mauritius v Seychelles (G5)
Angola v Namibia (G6)
Botswana v Guinea (G6)
Mali v Mozambique (G6)
Burkina Faso v Morocco (G7)
Ivory Coast v Equatorial Guinea (G7)
Benin v Cape Verde Islands (G7)
*Matches to be played on weekend of September 2-4. Return matches on the weekend of April 7-9, 1995*

***Second Round***
Cameroon v Zaire (G1)
Malawi v Zimbabwe (G1)
Lesotho v Swaziland (G1)
Togo v Senegal (G2)
Mauritania v Sierra Leone (G2)
Tunisia v Liberia (G2)
Sierra Leone v Congo (G3)
Gambia v CAR or Rwanda (G3)
Niger v Ghana (G3)
Algeria v Sudan (G4)
Egypt v Tanzania (G4)
Uganda v Ethiopia (G4)
South Africa v Gabon (G5)
Zambia v Madagascar (G5)
Guinea v Angola (G6)
Namibia v Mali (G6)
Mozambique v Botswana (G6)
Eq. Guinea v Burkina Faso (G7)
Morocco v Benin (G7)
Cape Verde Is. v Ivory Coast (G7)
*Matches to be played on weekend of October 14-16. Return matches on the weekend of April 21-23, 1995*

***Third Round***
Zimbabwe v Zaire (G1)
Malawi v Swaziland (G1)
Lesotho v Cameroon (G1)
Guinea Bissau v Senegal (G2)
Mauritania v Liberia (G2)
Tunisia v Togo (G2)
CAR or Rwanda v Congo (G3)
Gambia v Ghana (G3)
Niger v Sierra Leone (G3)
Tanzania v Sudan (G4)
Egypt v Ethiopia (G4)
Uganda v Algeria (G4)
Gabon v Mauritius (G5)
Seychelles v Madagascar (G5)
Zambia v South Africa (G5)
Mali v Angola (G6)
Namibia v Botswana (G6)
Mozambique v Guinea (G6)
Benin v Burkina Faso (G7)
Morocco v Ivory Coast (G7)
Cape Verde Is. v Eq. Guinea (G7)
*Matches to be played on weekend of November 11-13. Return matches on the weekend of June 2-4, 1995*

***Fourth Round***
Zaire v Lesotho (G1)
Swaziland v Zimbabwe (G1)
Cameroon v Malawi (G1)
Senegal v Tunisia (G2)
Liberia v Guinea Bissau (G2)
Togo v Mauritania (G2)
Congo v Niger (G3)
Ghana v CAR or Rwanda (G3)
Sierra Leone v Gambia (G3)
Sudan v Uganda (G4)
Ethiopia v Tanzania (G4)
Algeria v Egypt (G4)
Mauritius v Zambia (G5)
Madagascar v Gabon (G5)
South Africa v Seychelles (G5)
Angola v Mozambique (G6)
Botswana v Mali (G6)
Guinea v Namibia (G6)
Burkina Faso v Cape Verde Is. (G7)
Ivory Coast v Benin (G7)
Equatorial Guinea v Morocco (G7)
*Matches to be played on weekend of January 6-8, 1995. Return matches on weekend of July 14-16, 1995*

***Fifth Round***
Swaziland v Zaire (G1)
Zimbabwe v Cameroon (G1)
Lesotho v Malawi (G1)
Liberia v Senegal (G2)
Guinea Bissau v Togo (G2)
Tunisia v Mauritania (G2)
Ghana v Congo (G3)
CAR or Rwanda v Sierra Leone (G3)
Niger v Gambia (G3)
Ethiopia v Sudan (G4)
Tanzania v Algeria (G4)
Uganda v Egypt (G4)
Madagascar v Mauritius (G5)
Gabon v South Africa (G5)
Zambia v Seychelles (G5)
Botswana v Angola (G6)
Mali v Guinea (G6)
Mozambique v Namibia (G6)
Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso (G7)
Benin v Equatorial Guinea (G7)
Cape Verde Islands v Morocco (G7)
*Matches to be played on weekend of January 21-23, 1995. Return matches to be played on weekend of July 28-30.*
❒ FULL fixtures will appear later.

### 1995 ALL-AFRICA GAMES
***(Zimbabwe)***

**QUALIFYING COMPETITION**
*Seven teams to qualify for the final tournament plus hosts Zimbabwe. Teams to qualify from the seven different geographical zones of Africa. Tournament to be played at Under-23 level. All teams mentioned play at home in first leg.*

**ZONE 1**
*(Winners qualify)*
*1st leg:* February 10-12,1995.
*2nd leg:* February 24-26, 1995.
Algeria v Tunisia

**ZONE 2**
***First Round***
*1rst leg:* November 4-6.
*2nd leg:* November 18-20.
Liberia v Sierra Leone

***Second Round***
*1st leg:* February 10-12.
*2nd leg:* February 24-26.
Senegal v Mali
Liberia/Sierra Leone v Guinea

***Final Round***
*1st leg:* May 12, 14.
*2nd leg:* May 26, 28.
Liberia/Sierra Leone/Guinea/Senegal/Mali

**ZONE 3**
***First Round***
*1st leg:* February 10-12.
*2ond leg:* February 24-26.
Niger v Ghana
Ivory Coast v Nigeria

***Final Round***
*1st leg:* May 12-14.
*2nd leg:* May 26-28.
Niger/Ghana v Ivory Coast/Nigeria

**ZONE 4**
***First Round***
*1st leg:* February 10-12.
*2nd leg:* February 24-26.
Cameroon v Burundi
Congo v Zaire

***Final Round***
*1st leg:* May 12-14.
*2nd leg:* May 26-28.
Cameroon/Burundi v Congo/Zaire

**ZONE 5**
***First Round***
*1st leg:* February 10-12.
*2nd leg:* May 26-28.
Egypt v Sudan/Kenya

**ZONE 6**
***First Round***
*1st leg:* November 4-6.
*2nd leg:* November 18-20.
Botswana v Lesotho

***Second Round***
*1st leg:* February 10-12.
*2nd leg:* February 24/26)
Angola v Botswana/Lesotho
Malawi v Zambia

***Final Round***
*1st leg:* May 12-14.
*2nd leg:* May 26-28.
Malawi/Zambia v Angola/Botswana/Lesotho

**ZONE 7**
*1st leg:* February 10-12.2
*2nd leg:* February 24-26.
Madagascar v Mauritius

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

# SOME SHINE AMONG THE SHADOWS

**A MUCH BETTER World Cup than 1990's, huge crowds, some fine games, though over it hung two great shadows.**

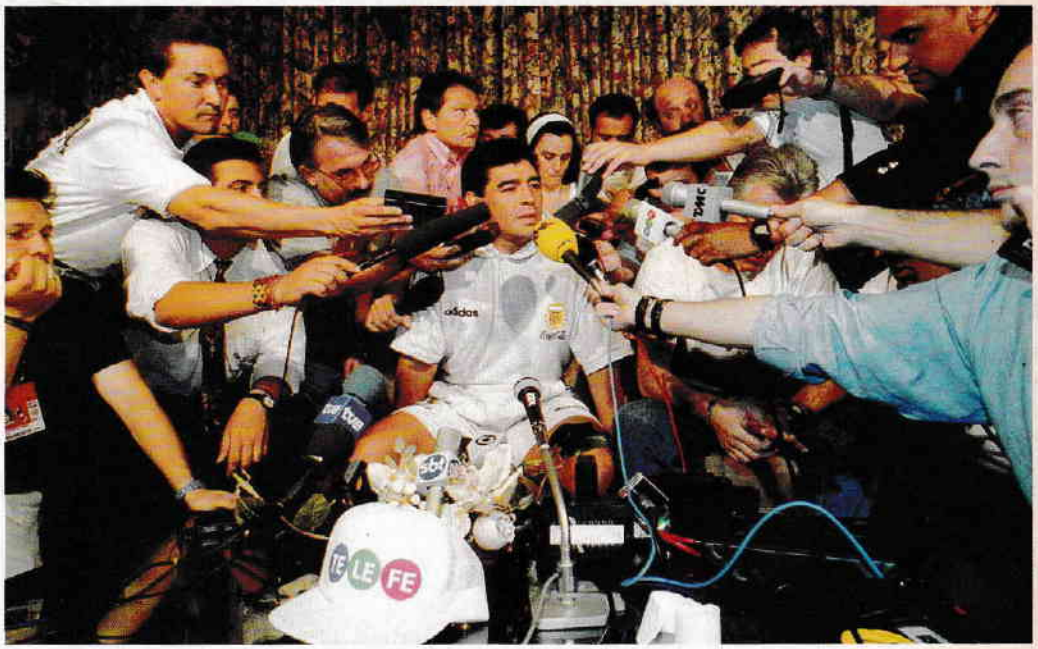
The larger, plainly, was the horrific murder of poor Andres Escobar. Linked to that odd game against the US in which, for reasons we may never know, Colombia didn't appear to be trying an inch.

The second shadow was that of the withdrawal of Diego Maradona, after testing positive for Ephedrine. FIFA had no alternative but to bar the turbulent little fellow, though his own FA pre-empted the punishment.

But, in common with all but those due to play against Argentina, I regretted it immensely, and was deeply sorry to see him go. Eternal urchin he may be, what with his Hand of God goal, the brawls he's been involved in, the cocaine, the prostitutes, the illegitimate child, the eternal arrogance. Still and all, he remains the greatest player since Pele.

For Enzo Bearzot, three times manager of the Italian World Cup team, he had the edge on Pele for one substantial reason. Pele never played in Europe.

Bearzot expressed this view in the course of a television programme beamed from New York to Italy, in which I was the other interviewee, with intrusions, or explosions, from its mentor, Gianni Mina, from Boston.



Man in the middle . . . Diego Maradona faces the press after failing a drugs test.

In an earlier interview Maradona continually asserted his innocence, and, in familiar fashion, opined that FIFA had been out to get him.

Just as he believed the Italian soccer Establishment had been out to get him after the 1990 World Cup, when he was tactless enough to proclaim that Neapolitan fans should support Argentina against their own country in the Naples semi-final, so badly had the city been served by the Italian state.

Maradona evolved the them that FIFA wanted Argentina to take part in the World Cup finals, presumably for financial reasons, but that once they were there, FIFA were determined to descend on them.

He pointed out that while he'd had a dope test after the game against Nigeria, there had been none when he ad his team met Australia in the crucial qualifying play-off in Buenos Aires.

FIFA's answer to that could be that the regulations do not insist on mandatory tests in the preliminary games. Though given Maradona's recent history and the importance of the occasion, I suppose it might be represented — though hardly by Maradona — that a dope test would have been a logical procedure.

During that Italian TV programme I said that Maradona's attitude had been paranoid. This led to a rebuke from Gianni Mina. We journalists, he cried, lived on the backs of such great champions, but were ever ready to destroy their careers.

My response was that I hadn't even the power to destroy HIS career and that if he wanted to run public relations for Maradona, that was his privilege. But we are old friends, and no bones were broken.

# BEARZOT, A REAL MANAGER

**WHILE the Italians were in training, an Italian TV man replied, when I eulogised Enzo Bearzot (right), that Arrigo Sacchi was a REAL manager.**

This was just before the "real" manager predictably (yes, I did for once predict it) lead his men to disaster against the Irish, at Giants Stadium.

My opinions of Sacchi have not changed, and they conform with those widely held by Italian critics. He cracked it as a club manager, when he had his players with him day to day; though even then his last days with Milan were unhappy ones, with Van Basten powerfully opposed to him.

But at international level, Sacchi is out of his depth and, for me, far inferior to Bearzot, who won the World Cup in 1982.

Where Bearzot scored was above all in his capacity, as the Italians had it, to "dis-intoxicate" his men, cleanse them of all the poisons and pressures of the Italian Championship, create an ambience in which they could peacefully progress.

At international level, you just don't NEED intensive coaching. Sacchi fiddled and fooled around with his tactics right up to the World Cup kick-off. 4-3-3? It had been never used by an Italian national team in history, yet there was Sacchi trying to impose it, only to back off at the very last moment.

How could he leave at home a right winger as fast, clever and energetic as Sampdoria's Lombardo? How could he go without a really, recognised centre-forward, Casiraghi having been no more than a Lazio reserve; and Vialli left at home?

Publicly, Bearzot did not criticise his successor, but he did emphasise that he had played 20 years of top football. When he was capped, he recalled, he was one of some 30 players used around that time. In the current period, the number was nearer 100.

Sacchi never kicked a ball in any decent class of football.

Bearzot told me that if ever the "great patrimony of American athletes" took to soccer, European football was doomed. He could be right. Black players, once they were allowed to play in Brazilian football, utterly transformed the game. And what would English football be without its myriad players of West Indian descent?

When pro soccer got off the ground in the US in 1967, the organisers pursued a deliberate, mistaken policy of discouraging black interest. But since the only way to tempt black athletes is to offer them real money, I can't see how, in the foreseeable future, they are going to join in large numbers.

Sports have long been one of the best ways out of the black ghetto, and out of crippling poverty. Boxing came first. Baseball grudgingly opened its door to black players just after World War Two. Basketball is dominated by blacks. Gridiron football is full of them.

In all these disciplines, they can make pots of money. What can they make in American pro soccer?

It barely exists at the moment, and when the new Noddy League gets going it will still be paying peanuts.

Man on ... Hassler tackles Pena from behind.

# NON-SIGNING WRITERS AND SILENT WHISTLERS

**ALAN ROTHENBERG, the soccer supremo in the United States, has not been a popular figure with the international football press. Many a Brownie point has been lost.**

**First, there was the outrageous affair of the waivers. Each journalist was asked to sign one, allowing the FBI access to his "criminal" record! It appears to be the stunted brainchild of one Ed Best, an ex-FBI man who had been co-opted to run World Cup security.**

**In the US, such antics are anathema. The American Press were soon up in arms. Rothenberg, digging himself deeper and deeper into the hole, insisted that such waivers had been required from every journalist at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. It wasn't true.**

**So the World Cup committee climbed down a substantial step and told the US media that they needn't sign; their social security numbers would be good enough. Which still left all the foreign media, who refused in droves. So Rothenberg was forced to climb down again. A double humiliation.**

**There have been other complaints. Those of us used to the ways of American professional sports and their benign treatment of the media expected it to be the most generous and pleasant World Cup yet. Not a bit of it. Rip-off and meanness were in the air.**

**Media hotels which actually cost MORE than the going rate. A charge of $150 to hire a press box phone; which could then be used only for calls collect to the newspaper.**

**No kind of restaurant in the meagre press centres, most of them far away from civilisation.**

**Often officious police; such as in Boston, where journalists' bags were checked by sniffer dogs.**

**Welcome to America! And note, please. No hooliganism. And no damn need to overreact.**

**But in the last analysis it's only the players who matter,and they, yet again, were sacrificial victims.**

**Making them play in 120 degrees of heat, as in Dallas and Pasadena, was a crime. Making them play in the stupid sweatbox of the Pontiac Silverdome — no air conditioning — and in the midday heat and humidity of ghastly Orlando was similarly outrageous. And just because the organisers hoped for help from Disney with the opening ceremony. Why not Tampa Bay or Miami?**

**FIFA's pitiful, devious excuse, that European televiewers deserved the fight to watch the football at a reasonable hour, was hardly worth refuting.**

**Much egg was left on FIFA's face, too (stand up, or rather, sit down, Sepp Blatter) over their tackle-from-behind rule. Or, as it transpired, non rule. Read it in its original form, and there are no bones about it. The tackle from behind is from now on illegal, and to be punished by expulsion.**

**But from the very first such harsh challenge, by Hassler of Germany on Cristaldo of Bolivia, no such actions were taken. In game after game, tackle after tackle from behind got no more than a yellow card, at worst in the case of Russia's Gorlukovitch, who had a yellow card already.**

**So FIFA backtracked, saying, in the face of all the printed evidence, that this was not what they had meant. No, no. They just meant tackles from behind when the perpetrator had been left in the rear by an opponent. But things went on just the same way.**

**The referees had voted, not with their feet, but with their silent whistles. Good for them.**

# CONCACAF CALLING

**OVER the years Brian Glanville has made a favourable impression on me through his articles in *WORLD SOCCER*.**

In recent times, however, his role has changed from being an analyst to that of an avowed critic, leaving one with the impression that he is a compulsive fault-finder. It seems that his knowledge of football is centred around Britain and to a great extent Europe.

He has strongly criticised FIFA's decision to expand the World Cup from 24 to 32 teams, as I no doubt guess he must have also criticised the decision to expand from 16 to 24.

He claims that CONCACAF is not deserving of a third team because of its low level of football and displays an amazing lack of knowledge of the development of the sport in CONCACAF.

Does Mr Glanville not know that Mexico are a member of CONCACAF, and reached the finals of Copa America last year, losing 2-1 to Argentina? In this tournament, the premier competition of South America, Mexico had to compete against Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia and Chile, to name a few.

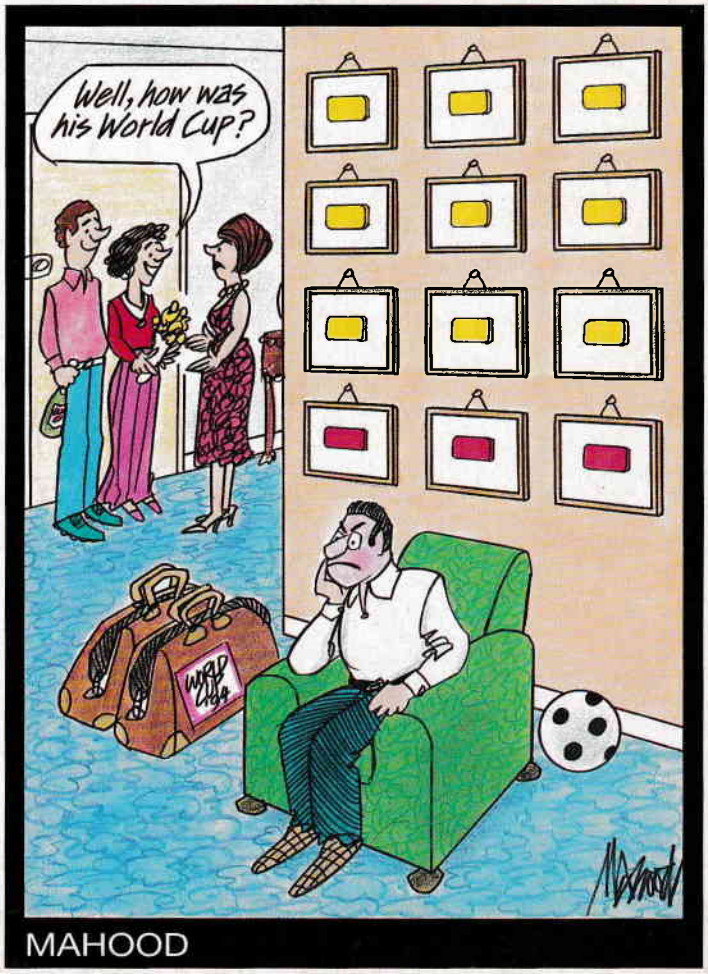
In the US Cup last year, the US defeated England and went on to defeat the Republic of Ireland and Italy in other matches.

What of other countries and their successes, e.g. Trinidad and Tobago over Argentina and Colombia in 1967, Republic of Ireland in 1982 and drawing with East Germany in 1989?

What of the top players of CONCACAF who play professional football in Europe with distinction? What of the top clubs which over the years have been successfully playing against clubs in Europe and South America?

Ignorance of football matters can sometimes be contagious but it need not be so. A little research will show that CONCACAF is poised to assume its position on the world football stage. — ***Jack A. WARNER, President, CONCACAF.***

❒ **JACK WARNER is clutching at straws and tilting at windmills. Pathetic that he should have to go back to 1967. Of course Mexico have dominated CONCACAF for generations, gaining easy passage to the World Cup finals. In the immortal words of Kingsley Amis, in World Cups "more means worse."**
***— B.G.***



MAHOOD

**UNITED STATES** By Paul Gardner

# Wave the flag!

## But there's an enormous amount of work to do

**YES, the World Cup has been a huge success in the United States. No, it hasn't converted the entire country to the sport overnight.**

But it has done something equally impressive. It has proved that the "soccer revolution" is already an established fact. History, in fact. That revolution has been going on in this country for the past 20 years or so.

The game has been growing rapidly in youth leagues, in high schools, and in colleges. The women's game has grown phenomenally. For years organised soccer has been trumpeting, and of course exaggerating, the millions who play. But the soccer people have never been taken seriously.

Two supremely important groups — the sports editors of major newspapers, and television executives — have remained scornful of soccer's claims. A case of the powerful elite being totally out of touch with what is going on around them.

The World Cup produced the first shock for this ill-informed group when the United States played Switzerland in their opening game. *ABC* was set to televise the game nationally, but decided that the kick-off time had to be changed. *ABC* wanted to reserve the prime time slot for golf.

So the soccer game was moved forward to the unlikely kick-off time of 11.30 am. The laugh was on *ABC* — the soccer game outdrew the golf anyway. This was unheard of — and it cannot be said that either *ABC* or *ESPN*, the two networks involved in the English language transmission of World Cup games, had done any noticeable amount of pre-game publicity.

Other networks featured soccer talk shows, and game round-ups. David Letterman, the king of the late night show hosts, got his snide remarks in early, with "Hey, did you all catch the great South Korea-Bolivia game? 0-0 — what a game!" But 10 days later, he devoted nearly half his show to soccer without denigrating it.

The major newspapers caught on. *The Los Angeles Times* coverage was massive — "There's more soccer in the LA Times than in the London Times" remarked an English journalist. *USA Today* devoted at least two pages a day to the tournament. *Newsweek* put out a special all-soccer issue, then again featured the sport as a cover story.

**'There's more soccer in the LA Times than in the London Times'**

The coverage, on the whole, was straightforward. There were the usual snide comments from the unconvinced, the pseudo- intellectual nonsense from the highbrows, disparaging the sport, and claiming to speak for all Americans.

But far more noticeable were the writers who felt they had discovered something worthwhile. *The Washington Post* columnist, Tom Boswell, a solid baseball man, virtually begged his readers to go out to watch the Switzerland v Spain game, telling them it was their last chance to get in on all the pageantry and excitement.

The party atmosphere at the stadiums was another huge plus for the sport. For so long, the anti-soccer people have plugged the hooligan angle for all it was worth. The fear was undoubtedly there, among many Americans, that all the World Cup games would be accompanied by violence. Yet people were superbly well behaved. The infectious atmosphere even began to envelop the stern security forces, who were seen joining in the fun among the Dutch fans in Orlando.

The proof is surely there that, in the US, one does not have to create or convert soccer fans. They are already there in large numbers, have been around for some time, waiting for their wake-up call.

The World Cup unquestionably has opened a lot of eyes to soccer as a serious, entertaining, and viable professional sport. But the fear is that the positive impressions are linked only to the World Cup, and not to the sport itself.

How long will the sponsors and the marketeers who have showered money on the World Cup retain any devotion to the sport now the tournament has gone? Will the millions of soccer devotees who have made their presence felt be content to sink back into the easy, low-key world of soccer as a participant — but not a professional — sport?

It is not a cop out to say that we shall just have to wait and see. Nobody knows the answer to this one. If the answer were clearly believed to be yes, then Alan Rothenberg would not be having problems finding the financing for his new pro league, MLS, scheduled to start in April 1995. If the answer were clearly no, then Rothenberg *(below)* wouldn't even be trying.

Of course a lot of the interest, initially, was on the performance of the US team.

Their rather rickety qualification for the second round was hailed as a major triumph by the United States Soccer Federation biggies, who went on to greet the 1-0 loss to Brazil in the same spirit.

Which shows where another problem lies. Most Americans, whether they know about soccer or not, are experienced sports fans. They are not easily fooled. They will go for pro soccer if it is high quality and well presented.

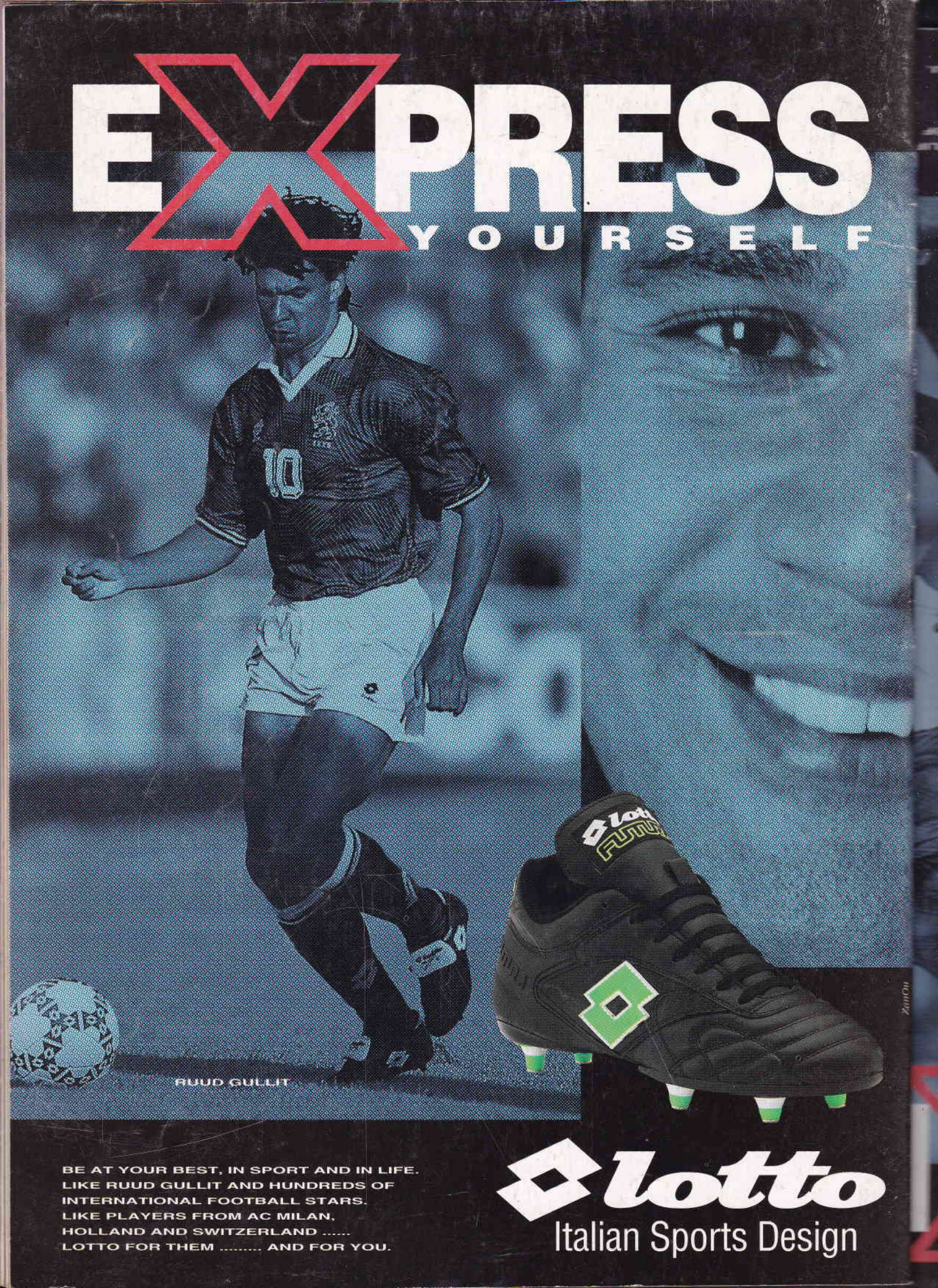
So it is not encouraging for the soccer authorities to start praising a negative US performance in a game that was lost. A game in which the US did not manage a single shot on goal, a game in which the US were thoroughly dominated by 10-man Brazil.

Pro soccer — i.e. the MLS — will not succeed with that sort of inflated hype. The American fan has now had a good look at a top soccer event. It has been judged as worthy of attention. When, or if, the MLS starts operations in April of next year, it will have to present high-quality, entertaining, soccer.

Waving the stars and stripes and appealing to patriotism will not be good enough now that the World Cup is over.

The MLS — and, perhaps more importantly, the USSF — need to find a way to permanently galvanise the masses of US soccer fans.

The millions who have so surprised the TV and the newspaper bosses with their massive support of World Cup '94.


EXPRESS
YOURSELF
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LIKE PLAYERS FROM AC MILAN,
HOLLAND AND SWITZERLAND .....
LOTTO FOR THEM ..... AND FOR YOU.
lotto
Italian Sports Design